FBIS DAILY REPORT

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USSR, U.S. HOLD STRATEGIC ARMS LIMITATION MEETING

LD301400Y Moscow TASS in English 1347 GMT 30 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Geneva, March 30, TASS--The delegations of the USSR and the United States had a regular meeting here today at the Soviet-American talks on the limitation of strategic offensive weapons.

WEST EXPECTED TO CONSIDER NEUTRON BOMB BAN IN GENEVA

LD301409Y Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 26 Mar 78 Morning Edition p 3 LD

[V. Petrusenko report: "Timely Initiative"]

[Text] The world public is attentively following the activity of the Disarmament Committee, which holds periodic sessions in Geneva. Its work instills considerable hope in the people of various countries for curbing the arms race.

This is natural. The Geneva committee had an enormous part to play in the elaboration and coordination of important international documents like the treaty on the Nonproliferation of Nuclear Weapons, the treaty on the prohibition of the emplacement of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction on the seabed and under the ocean floor, the convention on the prohibition of bacteriological weapons....

The broad response evoked by the report that a draft convention on the prohibition of the production, stockpiling, deployment and use of the neutron weapon had been submitted for examination by the present session of the Disarmament Committee was therefore natural. The draft has been jointly submitted by the delegations of the Soviet Union, Bulgaria, Hungary, the GDR, Mongolia, Poland, Romania and Czechoslovakia.

It is hard to overestimate the significance of the new collective diplomatic act by the socialist countries. At present this is one of the most timely and constructive proposals aimed at halting the arms race, particularly concerning weapons of mass destruction. It reflects in concentrated form the will of hundreds of millions of people who are worried by the danger presented to peace and security by the neutron weapon.

What is preventing this draft from becoming a full document without delays or hold-ups? Above all it is the growing influence of the military-industrial circles in the United States and other NATO countries. In fighting for this new and inhuman means of mass destruction, Gen A. Haig, commander in chief of the NATO allied armed forces in Europe, cited as an "argument" at a recent session of the Senate Armed Services Committee in Washington the idea that "the majority of European military leaders are in favor of developing the neutron weapon." The West German press report that Haig's new deputy, G. Schmueckle, is "a Bundeswehr general who is longing for the neutron bomb", is highly indicative of this trend.

The military of the NATO countries is hoping that in the very near future U.S. President J. Carter will decide to begin production of the neutron weapon. It is also preparing the most senseless plans ever born in the recesses of the most aggressive circles of imperialism.

That is why, as is becoming clear to everyone, tremendous responsibility is imposed on the Disarmament Committee for the adoption of a convention banning this monstrous weapon. The world public expects the Western countries in the committee to give serious and constructive consideration to the new initiative from the socialist states.

Disarmament Committee Condemnation

LD310428Y Moscow TASS in English 0225 GMT 31 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Geneva, March 30, TASS--Many states--members of the Disarmament Committee--are condemning plans for the production and deployment of the neutron bomb and demand a ban on this new type of the nuclear weapon.

The production of the neutron bomb and its deployment in Western Europe, the plenary meeting of the committee was told by Polish representative E. Vyzner today, will be detrimental not only to the talks on the prohibition of new types of mass destruction weapons which are currently under way at the committee but the talks on disarmament in general, will undermine the positive results of the process of detente and cooperation reached in Europe in recent years.

The point at issue is a serious problem, said Dutch representative R. Fein. The Government of the Netherlands expresses alarm in this connection. It would welcome a renunciation of the neutron weapon. This would not be detrimental to any country. The Government of the Netherlands also declares for a debate on this issue.

Hungarian representative M. Domokos drew attention of the committee members to the draft convention on banning the production, stockpiling, deployment and use of the nuclear neutron weapon recently tabled by eight socialist countries. The attempt to deploy the neutron bomb in Western Europe, he noted, would violate the balance of forces existing in our continent and would make the other side take measures to eliminate the disparity thus created.

History teaches that the emergence of some new kind of weapons always resulted in a new spiral of the arms race, said GDR representative Herder. The emergence of the neutron bomb is fraught with the same danger. He declared for concluding an all-embracing agreement on banning new types and system of mass destruction weapons, including the neutron bomb by supporting the Soviet proposals in that field.

Mongolian representative D. Erdembileg stressed that the committee must devote most serious attention to examining the question of a ban on the neutron weapon. The intrigues of its advocates, he said, are a source of deep concern for the peoples of the world.

RAISING OF 'IRRELEVANT QUESTIONS' IN MBFR DEBATE HIT

LD281331Y Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 24 Mar 78 p 4 LD

[Correspondent I. Melnikov report: "A Realistic Approach is Essential"]

[Text] Vienna, 23 March--The talks on the mutual reduction of armaments and armed forces in central Europe are continuing here.

At the press conference held after the latest plenary session of the delegations, the press liaison officers answered journalists' questions. They confirmed that those taking part in the talks had reached agreement on the question of exchanging additional information with regard to figures. It has become known in the corridors of the talks that this progress became possible as a result of the West's agreement to the socialist countries' compromise proposals. Local commentators believe that the study of the additional figures will assist progress at the Vienna talks.

It is well known that certain political circles in the West are increasingly frequently voicing the idea of putting forward the issue of neutron weapons for examination by those taking part in the Vienna talks. In this connection the following question was asked at the press conference: Was it actually planned to include this question among the subjects of the talks? Answering it, the Soviet delegation's spokesman said:

"The representatives of the socialist countries have pointed to the special danger to European and world peace presented by the plans to elaborate and deploy neutron weapons. If we allow the implementation of these plans, a new salient of the nuclear arms race will be opened up, the level of military confrontation will be increased and confidence between states will be undermined. All this is incompatible with the aims of the Vienna talks."

The task consists in totally preventing the emergence of this new type of mass destruction weapon. It was for this reason that L.I. Brezhnev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, proposed reaching agreement on the mutual renunciation of the production of neutron weapons. This position is shared by all the socialist countries taking part in the Vienna talks which, together with Mongolia, recently submitted to the Geneva Disarmament Committee a draft convention on banning the production, stockpiling, deployment and emplacement of nuclear neutron weapons. The socialist countries are convinced that this question must be resolved only in this way. Hence any attempts somehow to link with other irrelevant questions the definitive solution of the question of neutron weapons now under examination here in Vienna are known to be unacceptable to the socialist countries. They can only complicate the attainment of agreement at the Vienna talks.

ARMS TRADE CONTRADICTS PEOPLE'S INTERESTS, IMPERILS PEACE

LD301229Y Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 24 Mar 78 p 3 LD

[Maj V. Slavin article: "A Business Which Threatens Peace"]

[Text] The production and sale of arms and military equipment have become quite lucrative for the military-industrial monopolies of the NATO countries. According to figures from the U.S. Senate committee which investigated the affairs of 169 arms suppliers, their profits ranged from 50 to 500 percent. The top five arms suppliers include McDonnell-Douglas, Lockheed, Northrop, General Electric, United Technologies and Interarms.

West Eruopean companies like Aerospatiale, Dassault-Breguet and Matra (France); Drauss-Maffei and Messerschmitt-Boelkow-Blohm (FRG); Hawker Siddely, Vickers and Westland (Britain); and Oto Melara (Italy) also control enormous amounts of capital. It is not surprising, therefore, that businessmen are resorting to any means--bribery, blackmail, and backstage machinations--as long as they can sell their lethal wares to customers offering a high price. UN publications reveal that every year up to 15 percent of the arms produced in the capitalist world are exported.

The present race in international arms trade has reached unprecedented scales. In the desparate chase for enormous profits, the "dealers in death" do not consider the consequences the ever increasing military business would bring to mankind. According to the U.S. Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, annual exports of arms and military equipment from the capitalist countries more than quadrupled during the period 1961-1975 alone.

The United States is the largest supplier of arms and military equipment for the world market. It accounts for 3/4 of total capitalist arms exports.

The unrestricted proliferation of U.S. weapons in the world has promoted serious concern among broad circles of the U.S. public. Apparently acknowledging this, U.S. President J. Carter made the problem of restricting the arms trade one of the main topics of his campaign platform. He promised that if elected president, he would reduce the level of U.S. arms sales abroad.

On 19 Mary 1977, J. Carter made a statement about the United States' "new policy" on the export of conventional weapons. The essence of this policy, the President said, was to reduce U.S. arms sales to foreign countries. But a reservation was immediately made here concerning the possibility of "exceptional circumstances" which could force "the adoption of an exceptional presidential decision" in renouncing the "control measures" that restrict U.S. arms sales abroad.

One way or another, the amount of U.S. military supplies to foreign states is not decreasing but growing. Official Pentagon reports indicate that in fiscal 1978 the United States intends to sell weapons worth $13.2 billion abroad, that is, considerably more than in fiscal 1977.

Before the 1960's, over half of U.S. weapons went to the European NATO countries and Canada. In the mid-sixties the countries of Southeast Asia became the main importers of U.S. arms in connection with the escalation of U.S. aggression in Vietnam.

After the U.S. defeat in Southeast Asia, the main flow of arms was diverted to the Near and Middle East. Recently, the Persian Gulf countries have been major importers of U.S. arms and military equipment. From fiscal 1975 through 1977 alone, Iran reached agreements with the United States on the delivery of arms worth $7.9 billion while Saudi Arabia's orders totaled $5.4 billion.

U.S. arms deliveries to Israel are increasing every year. From 1966 through 1975, the United States supplied the Israeli Army with arms and military equipment worth almost $4 billion, not including the considerable military and economic aid given to develop military production. Large credits for arms purchases are also being granted to Israel in fiscal 1978. Washington is thereby encouraging the escalation of the arms race in the Near East and perpetuating the hotbed of international tension in this already explosive region.

France, Britain and the FRG are also major international arms suppliers. In recent years, the United States, France, Britain and the FRG have supplied Third World countries with thousands of aircraft, tanks and missiles of various classes and for various purposes. These facts attest that a flourishing business poisoning the international atmosphere and threatening the peoples' security is concealed behind the official facade of declarations and appeals for an "embargo on arms deliveries," "global restraint," and "the insuring of all-round control."

Over the last decade there has been a considerable increase in the number of countries and territories which have received or ordered modern aircraft and some of them (Taiwan, Pakistan, Egypt, Indonesia, South Korea, Iran, Spain and Argentina) are considered candidates for admission to the "nuclear club". They possess aircraft that could be used to deliver nuclear warheads.

In addition to aircraft, the United States and its NATO allies supply Third World countries with other types of new and sophisticated military equipment, particularly Spruance class destroyers, Hawk air defense missiles, Milan and Dragon antitank guided missiles, M-60 tanks, Alouette, Lynx and BO-105 helicopters, and "electronic warfare" facilities.

In recent years, Canada, Italy, Sweden, Israel, the Netherlands, Norway, Switzerland, Australia, Spain, Brazil, Argentina and several other countries have also become important arms exporters. The increase in the number of countries selling arms further complicates the problem of limiting the arms race.

The aims of imperialism, which is seeking to block detente and impose a dangerous new spiral of the arms race on the peoples, are manifested most graphically in military equipment trade. Using massive arms deliveries, the imperialist governments are trying to reinforce the military blocs, and above all NATO, wreck or delay the process of progressive transformations and expand their influence in the developing countries. The business of the "dealers in death" contradicts the vital interests of all peoples of the world and poses a tremendous danger to the cause of peace and security.

PRETORIA WANTS TO FORM BLOC WITH LATIN AMERICA

LD3C1558Y Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1116 GMT 30 Mar 78 LD

[Text] London, 30 March, TASS--High-ranking officers of the South African racist Army have become frequent visitors to Latin America. For instance, the South African Air Force chief of staff, Lt Gen R Rogers, is back from a trip to Chile, Uruguay and Argentina.

The British FINANCIAL TIMES points out here that the result of the visit was "closer cooperation" between the Republic of South Africa and several Latin American countries. It has become known that the primary topic for discussion at the talks was cooperation in knocking together what is called the south Atlantic pact (SATO). Western strategists include in this bloc of reactionary regimes--together with the Republic of South Africa--Chile, Uruguay, Paraguay and several other countries ruled by the military. It is intended to supplement the NATO military organization in the south Atlantic.

To provide some justification for the creation of SATO, Western and racist propaganda is pontificating about "the need to defend" the sea routes round the Cape of Good Hope from the Soviet Navy.

In fact, however, in the view of the French LE MONDE DIPLOMATIQUE, the ancient idea of creating SATO has been reborn "because of the events in southern Africa." The newspaper has in mind the creation of independent Angola and Mozambique, which have chosen a socialist orientation, on the ruins of the Portuguese colonial empire, and also the growth of the liberation struggle in Namibia and Zimbabwe.

Thus the main aim of setting up the bloc is new aggressive plots against the independent African states in this part of the continent and support for the racist regimes.

The main role in SATO is allotted to that outpost of international imperialism in southern Africa, the Pretoria regime, which mercilessly puts down action by the African population of the Republic of South Africa itself and the Namibian patriotic forces in support of their rights, gives extensive aid to the Rhodesian punitive forces and does not cease its aggressive subversive actions against the neighboring African states.

The task of knocking this bloc together is by and large placed on the Republic of South Africa. After Vorster's visit to Paraguay and Uruguay in 1975, cooperation started developing with those countries in the diplomatic, economic and military spheres. The racists' relations with the Chilean fascists have been developing particularly successfully. According to information from SWAPO, the South-West African People's Organization, soldiers of the Chilean junta are raiding peaceful Namibian settlements with South African punitive forces and helping to train bands of Angolan traitors.

Imperialism's ominous plans are countered by the African peoples by an intensification of the liberation struggle and assistance to the patriots, by a reinforcement of solidarity against imperialism.

PROGRESS EVIDENT IN GENEVA LAW OF SEA SESSION

LD301311Y Moscow NOVOYE VREMYA in Russian No 13, 24 Mar 78 pp 12-13 LD

[I. Gorev article" Balance of Pluses and Minuses"]

[Text] The 7th session of the third UN Law of the Sea [LOS] conference begins in Geneva on 28 March. Delegations consisting of prominent diplomats, ministers, scientists and specialists in international law and the military and economic uses of maritime expanses and resources from nearly 150 states, are permanent participants in the conference.

Since its opening at the end of 1973, the conference has attracted the fixed attention of broad public circles. This is only logical, for the conference is considering topical problems of the world's oceans, mutually acceptable solutions and legal procedures for the exploitation of the expanses and wealth of the world's oceans, taking into account the needs and concerns of present and future generations.

The novelty and objective complexity of a legal settlement concerning problems of the world's oceans--problems which affect the political, economic and security interests of various countries--gives the conference a very i se nature. Matters are further complicated by the fact that a number of states, including some littoral developing countries, have unilaterally harmed other states. The purpose? To acquire extensive areas of open sea or to establish arbitrary economic or fishing zones.

Unfortunately, this trend is becoming apparent at the conference: Some countries are submitting excessive, extremist demands. If one imagines fully the delicacy and practical complexity of the issues of territorial waters and international straits or the establishment of 200-mile economic zones, a fishing procedure and the exploitation of the continental shelf and the seabed beyond it, then it is easy to understand the damage that can be inflicted and is already being inflicted by attempts to impose unilateral decisions on the conference which contradict the interests of other countries.

As experience shows, some companies and political circles are attracted by the resources of the world's oceans in the same way 19th century colonialists were attracted by the prospect of seizing just a little more territory. The unfortunate consequences of imperialist division and colonial annexations are well known. Can there be any doubt that such an approach to the expanses and resources of the world's oceans carries the risk of argument, tension and the threat of serious conflicts?

The overwhelming majority of the conference participants oppose unilateral claims, which are imperialist by nature. The efforts of the countries, as the majority rightly believe, must not divide the world's oceans but create a legal basis for peaceful, equal and friendly cooperation and the collaboration of all states.

What success has there been in this direction in the 5 years of work by the conference? We will note first of all that with each new session the prospect of overcoming disagreements among various groups of states on the most acute problems becomes increasingly viable, which in itself is no mean achievement. The countries mutual trust and willingness to reach acceptable compromises has increased during the conference. There is firmer confidence that a genuine resolution of the acute problems of maritime law can and must be achieved not by coercive unilateral actions but by means of negotiation.

Another result is progress in preparing a draft common convention. It is being drawn up in the form of a "package" of basic decisions. Such a package, in the opinion of most of the countries, should solve the problems of the establishment of a 12-mile limit on territorial waters. the unhindered passage of all ships and aircraft flights across international straits, a procedure for economic zones, fishing and navigation and other matters. The package includes major issues concerning the continental shelf and a procedure for the seabed beyond it, the structure of the international body for seabed resources which is being created, problems of prospecting and extracting such resources and also maritime scientific research, the struggle against maritime pollution and so forth. [paragraph continues]

It is intended that, when the entire range of package questions is settled, the convention could be adopted by means of consensus; that is, by common consent. Such a procedure naturally demands a patient and balanced approach and a certain amount of time for a rapprochement.

And, finally, the third important result is the elaboration of an unofficial summary of the draft convention. Of course, serious unresolved questions are still in it but generally it provides a fairly good basis for achieving mutually acceptable arrangements.

Thus, in our opinion, it reflects a constructive approach toward resolving questions on the extent of limits (12 nautical miles) and a procedure for territorial waters, international straits and the waters of archipelago states. The same can be said of the highly important provisions in it relating to the establishment of a 200-mile economic zone, a procedure for fishing and maritime scientific research, freedom of navigation and the general principles of a procedure for the open sea, the continental shelf and the seabed beyond it. Along with other topical problems, such as the struggle against maritime pollution and a procedure for scientific research in various ocean regions, many of the draft's provisions reflect a high level of coordination of the positions of the majority of the participants in the conference. It seems to us that a basis for mutually acceptable compromise is appearing. This opinion is shared by most states.

Questions on a system of prospecting and extracting resources of the international seabed beyond the continental shelf, the outer limit of the continental shelf, the status of the economic zone as part of the open sea and some questions relating to fishing and access to live resources of the economic zone by the 53 landlocked states remain unsettled in the summary draft.

Although in the general balance of the summary draft, the number of unresolved questions is far fewer than those which have been settled, it is impossible to conclude a comprehensive convention without reaching agreement on these questions. Therefore, the success of the seventh session of the conference depends in many ways on whether the differences which still persist will be successfully overcome during the forthcoming talks. It must be recognized that the search for such arrangements entails great difficulties. For, despite the fact that the long-term interests of all states call for a mutually acceptable settlement of the problems of the world's oceans, some developed and developing countries frequently advocate decisions which encroach on the legitimate rights and interests of other groups of states. This naturally complicates the work of the conference: The seventh session is evidently faced with an intense struggle, the outcome of which will determine the fate of the future convention.

At intersession consultations an agreement was reached that this session will devote paramount attention to the most acute unsettled questions, particularly on the prospecting and extracting of seabed resources. The point is that, despite the arguments of some participants in the sixth session, the summary draft convention still contains provisions granting the right to exploit seabed resources almost entirely to the special international body and its enterprise. The participation of states in that work is surrounded by the kind of stipulations and conditions which virtually permit the complete exclusion of states from prospecting and extracting seabed resources. It is easy to see the discriminatory nature of such a system and the danger it harbors for a seizure of resources for large international monopolies. [paragraph continues]

Other questions connected with the structure of the international body, the creation and financing of its international enterprise, the fixing of an annual ceilng for the extraction of metals from concretions on the seabed and so forth, also await a reasonable settlement.

At the previous session the Soviet Union supported compromise formulas relating to the system of prospecting and extracting seabed resources. Going halfway to meet with wishes of the developing countries' "Group of 77," our delegation expressed, in particular, readiness to support the proposal that the international body could organize, carry out and control the extraction of seabed resources. But we also put forward the condition that states should also be given the right and a real opportunity to carry out such activity within the framework of the principles of the convention. If this key issue is settled, then the solution of other complex problems could also be found, such as, for instance, financing and creating the international enterprise, the terms of contracts, a procedure for reviewing the system of exploitation in 20-25 years and other matters. However, for this it is necessary that not only the Soviet Union but also all other participant states indicate a desire and readiness to go halfway with each other.

It must be said that the plans of some circles to embark on unilateral actions affecting the international region of the seabed beyond the continental shelf are giving rise to known concern. In particular, the U.S. Congress has prepared a bill on the access of American private companies to the resources of that region. Such an enactment, in the event of its adoption, would inevitably entail and escalation of unilateral actions and would undermine the international settlement, not only of the question relating to a procedure for the international region of the seabed but also of the entire "package" of other questions of maritime law being examined by the conference.

As distinct from such steps, which seriously complicate the work of the conference, the Soviet Union and other socialist countries are doing everything in their power to achieve a genuine international settlement of the problems of the world oceans. Rejecting any attempts to dictate and impose unilateral demands, from whatever side they come, the countries of the socialist community are acting in defense of the rights and interests of all states and peoples. They will also defend that position at the current seventh session of the Third UN LOS Conference, which the socialist countries regard as an important step on the path toward achieving mutually acceptable long-term arrangements on a procedure for the utilization and legal status of various regions of the world's oceans.

Of course, it is impossible to expect an immediate and easy resolution of all contentious questions at the conference. However, it would be quite wrong to prognosticate its failure. The balance of pluses and minuses in the work of the conference is gradually leaning in the direction of strengthening the prospect of an international settlement of the problems of the world's oceans.

USSR DISARMAMENT INITIATIVES FIND UN SUPPORT

LD201038Y Moscow TASS in English 1003 GMT 30 Mar 78 LD

["Important Soviet Initiatives"--TASS headline]

[Text] New York, March 30, TASS--The TASS correspondent, Vladimir Matyash, reports: The latest Soviet peace initiatives, aimed at curbing the arms race and solving the disarmament problem, averting the threat of nuclear war and deepening the process of relaxation of international tension, have met with a favourable response at the United Nations.

Among them was the call of the USSR for an agreement on a simultaneous halt in the production of nuclear weapons by all states and a beginning in the reduction of stockpiles of these weapons down to their complete liquidation, a ban on any nuclear weapons tests, a moratorium covering nuclear explosions for peaceful purposes, the mutual renunciation of the manufacture of the neutron weapon. Wide support at the United Nations was enlisted in this connection by the latest important initiative of the Soviet Union and other states of the socialist community, which proposed a draft convention banning the manufacture, stockpiling, deployment and use of the nuclear neutron weapon. This major initiative has been assessed by all peaceable states as another constructive contribution to the cause of ending the arms race and to the cause of disarmament.

It is emphasized in United Nations lobbies that the Soviet Union has submitted over 70 proposals aimed at disarmament and strengthening of detente for the consideration of this world-wide organization and other international forums.

It is clearly realised here that the arms race is the main danger threatening the world. This is borne out, specifically, by the numerous messages to the U.N. secretary-general, Kurt Waldheim, from the governments of U.N. member-countries in connection with the forthcoming special session of the U.N. General Assembly on disarmament in May-June this year. The Government of India, favouring the liquidation of all types of nuclear weapons and weapons of mass annihilation, recalled that the United Nations had been set up "to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war".

Progress in the sphere of disarmament fully accords with the interests of maintaining international peace and security, the Government of the Republic of Cyprus points out. The arms race is a threat to all humanity, said the Venezuelan Government.

Many governments stress the importance of pooling the efforts of all members of the international community in searching for an effective solution to the problems of ending the arms race.

UN INFORMATION COUNCIL CONSIDERS ARMS RACE

LD291816Y Moscow TASS in English 1744 GMT 29 Mar 78 LD

[Text] New York, March 29, TASS--TASS correspondent Vladimir Matyash reports: The struggle to end the arms race and for disarmament, for peace and international security against apartheid and all forms and manifestations of racial discrimination, must become the basic direction in the information activity of the United Nations and its specialized agencies, stressed the 7th session of the U.N. consultative council on information which ended here. During the session, attended by U.N. Secretary General Kurt Waldheim, it was noted that the 32nd session of the U.N. General Assembly passed, on the initiative of the Soviet Union and other peaceloving countries, a number of important decisions which give a new impulse to the process of improving the international climate, deepening and consolidating relaxation of tension in the world.

Participants in the debate stressed the historical importance of the "declaration on deepening and strengthening the relaxation of international tension." adopted by the session, and the resolution on concluding a treaty on the complete and general banning of nuclear weapons tests.

Soviet initiatives on concluding a world treaty on the nonuse of force in international relations, "on banning the development and manufacture of new kinds of mass annihilation weapons and new systems of such weapons," on convening a world conference on disarmament, have met with wide support. The importance of highlighting through the U.N. information activity of political questions associated with strengthening peace, disarmament, with consolidating international security and deepening the detente process, was stressed in this connection.

Also noted was the need to popularize the special U.N. General Assembly session on disarmament, to be convened next May, to discuss topical questions pertaining to reducing the danger of the outbreak of nuclear war, ending the arms race and taking the step towards real disarmament.

The session heard with close attention a speech by the Soviet delegate who underlined the need to activize support for U.N. efforts in the sphere of strengthening peace, detente, of resolving disarmament problems. Ending the arms race, disarmament, banning new barbarous mass annihilation means--the neutron bomb, the Soviet delegate said, is the most acute and urgent task of our time.

QUESTIONS ON USSR CITIZENS LIVING ABROAD ANSWERED

LD3017127 Moscow TASS in English 1603 GMT 30 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, March 30, TASS--Soviet people regard the compatriots abroad with great respect and benevolence and appreciate their kind attitude towards us, towards our motherland, Oleg Kuprin, editor-in-chief of the newspaper GOLOS RODINIY and the OTCHIZNA magazine, writes in the weekly NEW TIMES [NOVOYE VREMYA]. He gave an answer to the question which Boris Mokshantsev from the USA (Dallas) asked the weekly. Mokshantsev expresses apprehensions whether the Soviet Union's attitude to the "renegades" who left, fled or were expelled from the Soviet Union and who are characterized as traitors also casts a shadow on numerous people who are natives of the USSR--Ukrainians, Russians, Lithuanians and others who now live in Canada, the USA, Britain, and Argentina. Mokshantsev writes than an overwhelming majority of those people are honest folks who found themselves torn away from their native land.

"Millions of our fellow-countrymen live away from the motherland and most of them are honest people who keep kind sentiments towards the country where they, or their fathers and grandfathers were born," Oleg Kuprin points out.

"We know renegades well, by name and nickname, so to speak, Oleg Kuprin goes on. They themselves constantly and obstrusively remind us about themselves. They conduct the noisy and dirty anti-Soviet campaign. Working off or earning the silver coins, they zealously slander their former motherland. They denigrate and cast aspersions on it as is required by their patrons who reckon on undermining the prestige and influence of the land of socialism in the eyes of peoples. I don't think that you, Boris, justify such people, and I believe that you know as well as we do: A handful of wild-eyed shouters has nothing in common with an overwhelming majority of fellow-countrymen abroad.

We highly appreciate and will never forget the noble activities which hundreds of thousands of our fellow-countrymen abroad carried out during the Second World War. In Europe, many of them fought in antifascist guerrilla detachments and in detachments of the resistance movement.

Numerous committees for help to the Soviet Army were set up in the American Continent. They raised funds and collected medicines and warm clothes for Soviet soldiers. To the best of their ability and energies they helped us to defeat the enemies.

We are proud of the fact that our fellow-countrymen have made a big contribution to the development of world culture and science. Soviet people utter with great respect the names of S. Rachmaninoff, composer; S. Konenkov, sculptor; I. Repin, painter; V. Zvorykin and I. Sikorskiy, scientists; and many others.

SONG MY TEACHES VIGILANCE AGAINST IMPERIALISM

LD300919Y Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 22 Mar 78 p 3 LD

[Col A. Leontyev article: "Song My Teaches Vigilance"]

[Text] It was 10 years ago that an event took place which shook all honest people of the world. A platoon of U.S. soldiers under the command of Lieutenant Calley brutally massacred the inhabitants of the South Vietnamese village of Song My. The members of the punitive force burned houses and killed and threw into a ditch 567 peaceful inhabitants, sparing neither helpless old women and men nor young women, children, or women with babies in their arms. Song My became a symbol of the barbarity of imperialism and proof that it was prepared to embark on any crime against humanity.

In organizing the slaughter the interventionists hoped to intimidate the people, but the opposite happened. The asnes of Song My hammered at the hearts of the Vietnamese patriots. It was with this name on their lips that they went into battle, scorning death. This name resounded in all languages of the world as a "guilty" verdict against the aggressors.

The interventionists' acts of brutality did not save them from defeat and retribution. The heroic Vietnamese people, relying on the fraternal support of the Soviet Union and the other socialist countries, triumphed. Song My, like hundreds of other burned villages, rose up from the ruins and ashes and acquired new life.

Those in power in the United States today say they have learned the lessons of Vietnam. But is this the case? What can explain the fact that, in speaking about Vietnam, representatives of the present administration allege that the United States "should not ask anyone's forgiveness, blame itself or feel guilty...?" The gentlemen who call themselves the "champions of human rights" do not venture to do this.

These gentlemen fear that a "sense of guilt" might harm them in the future. U.S. Defense Secretary H. Brown once said that, of course, it was a good thing that Americans "remember the Vietnam failure," but that this was allegedly "also fraught with a certain risk." What risk? The secretary voiced the fear that "an oversensitive reaction to the Vietnam war" could give rise to "the desire to avoid an acute situation rather" than to "set about resolving a problem directly." In a word, the memory of Vietnam might prevent the organization of "new Vietnams."

Song My is not only history but a present day part of our planet. In fact, have the Israeli aggressors not left many of their own "Song Mys" in the Arab east? Are they not continuing their crimes during the current new act of aggression against long-suffering Lebanon when their aircraft are bombing cities and villages and their tanks are crushing women and children? [paragraph continues]

Have not many "Song Mys" been organized by the British punitive forces in Ulster, the South African racists in Namibia and the Rhodesian racists in Zambia and Mozambique? Is there not something in common between the Song My butchers and those people who are now planning the destruction of millions of people with the aid of the neutron weapon? Inhumanity and hatred for peace and socialism, freedom and humanity are inherent in both.

Song My teaches vigilance and recalls the need to step up the struggle for the prevention of a new world war and for the further relaxation of international tension and lasting peace on earth. Peace is the best monument to those who died in Song My. Peace is the most reliable guarantee that Song My will never be repeated anywhere.

NOVIKOV DISCUSSES STATUS OF PREPARATIONS FOR OLYMPICS

LD301930Y Moscow TASS in English 1655 GMT 30 Mar 78 LD

[Excerpts] Moscow, March 30, TASS--"The holding of the Olympics in Moscow, the guarantees given by the Soviet Government that the 1980 Olympics will be held fully in accordance with the Olympic rules excellently reflects how the decision adopted in 1975 at the European security and cooperation conference in Helsinki are being implemented in the Soviet Union. The chairman of the organizing committee of the 1980 Olympics, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers Ignatiy Novikov made this statement today during a meeting with ambassadors and ministers of European countries, as well as of the United States, Canada, Australia and New Zealand. He stressed that the activity of the organizing committee is constantly supported by the Soviet Government and the CPSU Central Committee. The Soviet leaders have already considered more than once the question of preparations for the Olympics in Moscow. "Due to this we can say with confidence that the most favorable conditions for the Olympic games are being created in the Soviet Union," Ignatiy Novikov said.

Ignatiy Novikov stressed that setting themselves the goal of holding the Olympics at a high level, the organizers envisage, above all, broad participation of sportsmen of the five continents in these competitions. Soviet sports organizations and the Olympic-80 organizing committee now maintain direct contacts with national Olympic committees, take into consideration their opinions and wishes so as to create all conditions for the successful preparation and participation of sportsmen of these countries in the Olympic games.

After the conversation, its participants went to the sites of several Olympic projects under construction.

UNITED STATES

CARTER'S TOUR CONTINUES AMID PROTESTS, DISAGREEMENTS

Cuban Blockade Condemned

LD3104247 Moscow TASS in English 0204 GMT 31 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Caracas, March 30, TASS--Nearly thirteen hundred representatives of Venezuela's political, public and cultural circles demanded that the U.S. administration end the economic blockade of Cuba.

The imposition of the blockade, says the open letter, which was addressed by them to U.S. President James Carter, was tantamount to opening hostilities. By this step imperialism hoped to stifle Cuban economy and isolate the country in the international arena.

The authors of the letter expressed solidarity with the Cuban people. Cuba, the document stresses, is an inseparable part of Latin America, hence aggression against it is a challenge to the whole continent. An end to the policy of isolation of Cuba would be the first step towards normalizing international relations in the Western Hemisphere.

Among those who signed the letter are prominent political figure Wolfgang Larrazabal, author Miguel Otero Silva, Chairman of the Communist Party of Venezuela Gustavo Machado, presidential candidates Hector Mujica, Jose Vincente Rangel, Americo Martin and others.

Oil Price Increase Favored

LD3013147 Moscow in Persian to Iran 0930 GMT 30 Mar 78 LD

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] U.S. President Carter has ended his state visit to Venezuela. Venezuelan President Andres Perez made certain remarks on the eve of his visit in an interview with foreign journalists. Referring to Venezuela's oil policy, he said: Our country, as an OPEC member, will continue its struggle to raise oil prices. We support a fair price for oil in line with commodity prices in advanced capitalist countries. It should be noted that Venezuela nationalized its oil industry following the election of Perez as president, and it has been constantly working for the unity and solidarity of OPEC members and resisting foreign monopolies that exploit other people's black gold. As we know, fixing a fair price for oil is one aspect of this effort. Venezuela is one of the OPEC members that refuses to surrender to pressures by monopolies and is trying to prevent an artificial reduction in the price of this liquid fuel. At the previous OPEC session in Caracas, Venezuela sided with those who, despite Western monopolies' efforts, opposed freezing the price of oil.

Commenting on U.S. President Carter's visit to Venezuela, local newspapers note that the Venezuelan people are firmly determined to end the parasitic activity of American monopolies and gain control of its natural resource. President Carlos Andres Perez has said Venezuela should remain fully (?independent) from the United States or any other country.

'Cool' Reception in Brazil

LD301248Y Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1130 GMT 30 Mar 78 LD

[Text] U.S. President Carter has arrived in Brazil on an official visit. Observers are noting the correct but cool reception given to Carter by Brazilian President Geisel. The paper CORREIO BRASILIENSE stresses that the basis of this reception is the strong disagreements between the two countries in political and economic areas.

Trade Barriers Protested

LD301858Y Moscow in English to Africa 1500 GMT 30 Mar 78 LD

[Text] The American press is making no secret of the fact that President Carter is encountering difficulties in the course of his trip to Latin America. Commenting on his stay in Venezuela, the New York DAILY NEWS said that his talks with President Carlos Andres Perez did not lead to a coincidence of views on major economic problems. The New York TIMES said that upon Carter's arrival in Brazil, problems immediately came to light that caused tension between the two countries. For one thing, Brazil does not like the protectionist barriers put up by the United States that block Brazilian goods. President Carter is due to arrive in Nigeria on Saturday.

CARTER TOUR SYMBOLISM FAILS TO HIDE EXPLOITIVE INTENTIONS

LD301924Y Moscow in English to South and Southeast Asia 1100 GMT 30 Mar 78 LD

[Text] President Carter continues his tour of a number of countries in Latin America and Africa. More from our commentator, Leonid Levchenko: The American media tried to advertize the tour as a certain symbolic demonstration of the interest that the Washington administration shows in the developing countries. The first results of the tour have revealed the genuine stance of these symbolics. In a speech at the Venezuelan Congress, President Carter made a call for stabilizing oil prices. The United States shows obvious discontent with the fact that the oil-exporting countries keep increasing oil prices with the aim of protecting their economic interests. They are doing this as a retaliation step for the continued boosting of prices for goods that the capitalist West is selling to the Third World. The United States and other industrially advanced countries are making thousands and millions of profits from this difference in prices.

Besides, constant currency machinations that result in the fluctuation in the dollar on the world monetary market cause additional damage to developing countries. During the recent new fall of the American dollar, the purchasing power of the oil-producing countries went down by 10 percent. Experts believe that the artificially created fall of the dollar has led to a situation when the OPEC countries lost no less than $15 billion in the period from December 1976 to January this year. In contrast to this the Western oil monopolies--the American monopolies first and foremost--have found themselves at a (?winner's end).

The United States naturally wants the oil privileges to be retained for its monopolies. Political observers, therefore, regard Carter's call for stabilizing prices as an attempt to bring pressure on the oil-producing countries.

The American president also urged that the door should be opened wider for foreign capital. There is nothing new about the appeal. Yet the partnership with foreign capital have brought the developing countries numerous disasters.

The monopolies have blocked the development of the Third World countries and have turned them into their raw material appendages. Realization is growing in these countries that in order to develop independently, they should rid of the dominance of foreign companies.

It is not accidental that President Andres Perez of Venezuela stressed the importance of the nationalization in the oil and iron ore industry for his country. In his speech at the reception in honor of the American President, he said these industries were exploited ruthlessly by foreign monopolies, American monopolies above all.

The calls made by the American President revealed that the United States has no intention to abandon the neocolonialist policies towards the Third World. The developing countries can hardly count that in the future their interests will not be ignored by the United States as they are now. This explains why the American policy is coming under sharp criticism of the political and public circles in Latin America.

VENTING FRUSTRATIONS ONLY COMPLICATES U.S.-USSR RELATIONS

LD301215Y Moscow NOVOYE VREMYA in Russian No 13, 24 Mar 78 p 16 LD

[Vl. Kuznetsov article: "On Vexation and the 'Service Record'"]

[Text] The screaming of "hawks" has been resounding increasingly frequently from across the Atlantic Ocean in recent days. When "professionals" of the military-industrial complex, the special services or organizations like the "Committee on the Present Danger" behave in this way, well that's ok, as the saying goes. It is worse when officials resort to such language.

Z. Brzezinski, the President's national security advisor, has started proclaiming a "hard line" and forecasting a "slump" in relations with the Soviet Union. H. Baker, minority leader in the Senate, permits himself to expatiate on Moscow's "military adventurism" in Africa. Unable to conceal his irritation at the failure of the plans to create a "great Somalia" at Ethiopia's expense, the Senator even advances something like an ultimatum: "Stop playing the fool, or we will think about suspending these talks for a while" (on Strategic Arms Limitation--SALT-II). It simply does not occur to the earnest senator, who is not disposed to "playing the fool," that Washington will not "punish" the Russians thereby, but will put itself in the position of that classic noncommissioned officer's widow who flagellated herself. Not only Moscow, but also Washington needs the agreement, as the latter's representatives have themselves declared repeatedly. Unfortunately, President J. Carter also paid his tribute to the alter of the "hard line" and the "Soviet military threat" in his 17 March speech in North Carolina.

The question arises as to why people in Washington have started speaking a language which is hardly appropriate in interstate relations. Is it not because both in the Horn of Africa and in the Near East events are developing not quite the way some people would like? Is it not because the hopes of securing one-sided advantages at the SALT-II talks have evaporated, and the Pentagon's neutron waif has yet to be adopted in Western Europe? Such suppositions can be found in the U.S. press, which points out that "something is amiss" in Washington. The head of the White House has come up against a "problem of prestige" and cannot present the American and foreign public with a sufficiently respectable "service record." Mentioning this in a report from Washington, the CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR speaks of the vexation which people there feel because much of what is happening in the world is "simply beyond America's control."

This, however, is no reason to try to vent one's spleen upon others. The "service record" will hardly be any better if burdened with the malicious distortion of the other side's positions, preaching the "hard line" and shaking the foundations of good relations. Today, prestige is attained only through active participation in resolving world affairs and settling crisis situations, and an unprejudiced attitude toward, and respect for, partners in international intercourse. It would be far more useful for everyone if the energy now seething in Washington did not turn the flywheels of militarism and enmity, but insured the dynamism and constructive thrust of Soviet-U.S. relations. This is precisely what the USSR urges.

PAUL NITZE REJECTS SALT AS DETRIMENTAL TO 'PROFITS'

LD301658Y Moscow TASS in English 1641 GMT 30 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, March 30, TASS--TASS commentator Ivan Ablamov writes: An especially annoying voice in the chorus of American "war hawks," who oppose detente in the military field in general and any joint Soviet-American strategic arms limitation measures in particular, is that of Paul Nitze, former U.S. assistant secretary of defence. A few days ago he made a statement again, attacking the very possibility of achieving a new Soviet-American strategic arms limitation agreement. He claims that it would be better for the United States not to have any agreement on SALT than to agree with the outlines of what is emerging in the course of the present talks.

Why is the "war hawk" displeased with these talks? First of all because they rest on the principle of strategic parity, of approximate parity of the forces between the USA and the USSR, while one of the former Pentagon chiefs is dreaming of U.S. "nuclear supremacy" over the Soviet Union.

In P. Nitze's pronouncements one hears nostalgia for the old times which are never to return. His statements reflect the reluctance of certain circles in the USA to reckon with the existing realities. Nitze believes that the United States can do without a strategic arms limitation agreement. And this is passed off as a manifestation of concern for the security of the USA! But who does not know what the breakdown of an agreement on SALT would lead to? It would open the way to new spirals of the arms race, to the growth of arms spending, to the spread of nuclear arms, it would destabilize the strategic situation, worsen political relations and, in the final account, increase the danger of war.

The "war hawk" does not conceal that such a development of events would suit his interests. He sees "future security" of the USA in an accelerated deployment of the Pentagon-suggested systems of such arms as cruise missiles and mobile missiles.

The arms race never helped strengthen the national security of the USA in the past, nor will it do so in the future. There can be no question of absolute security in the conditions of development of ever new dangerous arms systems.

What Mr Nitze is really concerned about is not the national security of the USA, as he claims, but the profits of the military-industrial complex, which is interested in the further intensification of the arms race. It is for the sake of these profits that he is prepared to ignore the interests of peace and the destinies of the peoples, including the destiny of his own people. All indications are that the Committee on the Present Danger, to which this "war hawk" belongs, sees dangers for the United States in the wrong place. They lie not in the non-existent "Soviet menace," of which they talk in the committee, but in the position held by Mr Nitze and company. This is a position of war-mongering.

MILITARY-INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX FUELS NEUTRON FEVER IN U.S.

LD3013517 Moscow SELSKAYA ZHIZN in Russian 25 Mar 78 p 3 LD

[Nikolay Pastukhov article: "Neutron Fever"]

[Text] The militarist hysteria which is now embracing Washington and certain capitals of West European countries is beginning to be reminiscent of the sad years of the "cold war" times of Harry Truman and John Foster Dulles. An atmosphere of fear is being increasingly promoted. Hysterics on the imaginary "Soviet threat" are again being heard on all sides. The dangerous growth of the military budgets of the United States and other NATO countries is continuing, and cries are heard for an unlimited increase in U.S. military potential and the production of the neutron bomb--the new nuclear weapon of mass annihilation.

What are the reasons for this? What will gain the upper hand on Capitol Hill--reason or madness? These questions are now being posed even by Americans themselves and by all those who value the cause of peace and international security.

In answer to the first question, the majority of observers capable of objectively assessing the present political situation in the United States come to the same conclusion--that the process of detente, which has grown deep roots in recent years, has genuinely disturbed the American military monopolies and confronted them with the threat of losing the fabulous profits brought by the arms race. Major U.S. capital is concentrated in the hands of these monopolies, united in the so-called military-industrial complex, making it possible for them to control the political and bureaucratic machinery, as well as the press, radio and television, and thus dictate the implementation of policy and propaganda which is advantageous to them. That is why it is precisely on the orders of the military-industrial complex that a bitter campaign has begun against detente and against the Soviet-American Strategic Arms Limitation Talks, a campaign to further increase military spending, and create new types and systems of arms.

The results of this pressure were not slow to be felt. In this fiscal year, which begins on 1 October 1978, the U.S. military budget will soar to $128.4 billion--an amount unknown in the history of the United States, even in the years of World War II. The Pentagon has embarked, with frantic zeal, on creating new types of strategic weapons of mass destruction. CIA chief Turner, Pentagon leader Brown, and Admiral Holloway, chief of naval operations, have swamped American television, through which they are creating an atmosphere of fear, and then trying to convince the American that his only "salvation" is the arms race. After this, with the smile of commercial travelers, they report that they have already created a more powerful nuclear warhead for Minuteman strategic missiles, are testing the Trident missile complex for new submarines, are setting up production of cruise missiles and are ready to commence series production of the neutron bomb as a "gift" for their NATO allies in Western Europe.

Stunned by this massive television assault, the American opens the newspapers in the morning and again reads the same statements and bellicose commentaries by Pentagon yes-men. Thus, a kind of neutron fever is spreading in the United States--a fever on whose development the fate of mankind may depend. The source of this madness lies in the safes of the military monopolies and all who are in their pay.

But there are people in the United States who have not lost their reason. They are the overwhelming majority. What do they think about all this, what do they say.

During a recent trip to the United States, I met and talked frankly with students and teachers in four American universities, farmers in nine states, and workers and representatives of the intelligentsia in Chicago, Kansas City, Madison, Philadelphia, New Jersey and New York. They unanimously condemn the arms race, being well aware of the terrible consequences it could bring the country. They entertain kind feelings toward our country and our people, believe in its love of peace and think that the United States and the USSR could cooperate for the sake of progress and carry out mutually advantageous trade on a large scale. Evidence of these sentiments is provided by many public opinion polls carried out by the Harris and Gallop agencies. They are reflected in articles by honest American journalists and in speeches by sober-minded congressmen. These are some of them. Concerning plans to produce the neutron bomb, Republican Senator M. Hatfield, says that "this decision is more important than all the decisions made since Harry Truman ordered the creation of the atom bomb." A CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR commentator made it plain to the residents of the gloomy Pentagon building on the Potamac that "if there is, in our time, any conviction shared by Americans, it is not only a negative attitude to war, but also to any steps by the United States which could draw the country into a new war." And finally, the New York publication HARPERS notes that there is a bitter struggle over the problems of armaments in the United States between the military lobby and the supporters of arms control, who "suggest that the common interest of the Soviet Union and the United States in averting a conflict, particularly a nuclear war, is more important than the contradictions between them and makes arms control not only possible but necessary."

All this provides grounds for the conclusion that the America of reason--and this is the overwhelming majority of the country's population--is ready to oppose the America of madness, which is represented by a small group of military monopolists and the politicians and pen-pushers they have bought. The America of reason is aware that the arms race is fraught with the threat of a nuclear missile catastrophe and is therefore contradictory to the vital interests of the entire world.

We are now witnessing how people of good will, irrespective of their political convictions and religious views, in all countries and on all continents, are saying a decisive "no!" to the arms race and the neutron bomb.

The Soviet Union and other socialist countries occupy a clear and inflexible position on this question. Setting out our country's position, Leonid Ilich Brezhnev said, in answer to the questions of a PRAVDA correspondent: "But if this bomb is created in the West--created against us, which nobody even conceals--then the people there must be clearly aware that the USSR will not remain a passive observer. We will be confronted with the necessity of responding to this challenge to insure the security of the Soviet people and their allies and friends."

At the same time our country is decisively opposed to such a development of events, since it would increase the arms race still further. The Soviet Union has suggested to the United States that they mutually renounce neutron bomb production, which would spare the world the appearance of a new weapon of mass annihilation.

However, neutron fever is continuing in Washington. The interests of universal security, the further development of the process of detente, the tranquillity of mankind and the life of future generations imperatively demand an end to this dangerous malady.

CONGRESSMEN LEAVE FOR KIEV AFTER VISIT TO MOSCOW

LD301352Y Moscow TASS in English 1335 GMT 30 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, March 30, TASS--The visiting American congressmen left Moscow today.

Among those who saw them off were Lev Tolkunov, vice chairman of the Parliamentary Group of the USSR, Georgiy Arbatov, deputy of the USSR Supreme Soviet, and others.

The American congressmen are also to visit Kiev, the capital of the Ukraine.

U.S. OFFICIAL CALLS FOR IMPROVED TRADE TIES WITH USSR

LD301606Y Moscow TASS in English 1554 GMT 30 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Washington, March 30, TASS--Deputy Assistant Secretary for East-West Trade Alan Reich came out for further widening of commercial and economic relations with socialist countries. He pointed out that on the whole these relations are being developed successfully on the basis of the provisions of the final act of the European Security and Cooperation Conference. Speaking at a meeting of the Bureau on East-West Trade in the U.S. Department of Commerce, Alan Reich emphasized special importance for the United States of commercial and economic relations with the Soviet Union. He said that the USA and the USSR have practically unlimited possibilities in this sphere.

Both sides, he said, declare for the widening of relations on basis of mutual advantage since they meet national interests both of the United States and the Soviet Union. The awareness of the need of expanding such relations is growing constantly in the business world of the United States that shows the ever growing interest in them.

How effectively we shall be using the existing potentials depends largely on the overall political climate in the relations between the two countries, Alan Reich said. Of great importance in this connection will be the conclusion of a new agreement on strategic offensive arms limitation between the USSR and the USA. The solution of this important problem would improve the overall atmosphere in relations between the United States and the Soviet Union and would create a favourable situation for further widening of economic and commercial relations between them and between the East and the West as a whole.

SAUDI ARABIA LAUNCHES CAMPAIGN FOR U.S. AIRCRAFT

LD301546Y Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1108 GMT 30 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Washington, 30 March, TASS correspondent--Saudi Arabia has launched a massive lobbying campaign in the United States to obtain congressional approval for its request of 60 F-15's, the latest U.S. fighters. Riyadh's interests will be "pushed" by a major public relations firm, Cook, Ruef, Spann and Weizer. According to the Washington POST, the head of the firm, C. Cook, is a close friend and political adviser to the U.S. ambassador in Saudi Arabia.

As is known, the White House has approved the sale to Israel, Egypt and Saudi Arabia of a major consignment of various U.S. fighters.

This decision is at odds with the administration's previous assurances of its "desire to limit" supplies of U.S. arms to regions where there are hotbeds of tension. Riyadh is one of the main U.S. arms purchasers--over the past 5 years alone, Saudi Arabia has obtained various arms and munitions worth $10 billion. Many legislators believe that the new supplies will further exacerbate the situation in the explosive region of the Persian Gulf and the Near East.

According to the Washington POST, Cook and his colleagues will concentrate on "processing" Congress and the press, which is given the role of securing a favorable public attitude toward this deal.

According to press information, Riyadh's lobbyists intend to accentuate the "special signification" for the United States of Saudi Arabia, which is the main supporter of Washington's interests in the Arab world, and also the U.S. dependence on Saudi oil.

MOBILE STRIKE FORCES 'TOOL OF AGGRESSION, INTERFERENCE'

LD301013Y Moscow NOVOYE VREMYA in Russian No 13, 24 Mar 78 p 17 LD

[V. Boykov article: "Mobile Interference"]

[Text] According to a report in the magazine U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT, U.S. strategists are racking their brains over a new plan. Its essence has been formulated by Defense Secretary H. Brown: The United States must be ready to wage "one and one-half" wars. While devoting most attention to Europe, the United States must have forces for "half a war" anywhere in the world. Three divisions--mobile strike forces--have already been earmarked. The magazine names Western Europe, the Eastern Mediterranean, the Persian Gulf and South Korea as the most likely regions for their use.

The Eastern Mediterranean, which includes the Near East, occupies a special place in these plans. According to the Pentagon's plan, the United States should control one of the biggest Israeli airports in occupied Sinai. The legal right to such an "acquisition" could be given by a separate Israeli-Egyptian agreement. The U.S. presence in Sinai would make it possible to interfere quickly in any local conflict. From there it would be possible to support pro-U.S. regimes and to "keep an eye" on the oilfields and seaways. The Pentagon has already prepared a scenario in case it is necessary to "protect the West's access to Persian Gulf oil." The chief role is allocated to the 82d Airborne Division. Its task includes capturing a bridgehead and oilfields. The 101st Airborne Division can be brought up to help it. Marine units are to "consolidate the success of the operation...."

But while the plans for the Near East and the Persian Gulf exist so far only on paper, the Latin American plans are about to be realized. In February this year approximately 1,000 U.S. "Green Berets" were transferred to the Panama Canal Zone. Some commentators believe that this is "preventive intimidation" of the Panamanians, who are struggling for national sovereignty over the canal. Others believe that the operation is intended to support the shaky throne of Nicaraguan dictator Somoza.

However that may be, one thing is clear: Th U.S. mobile strike forces are a tool of aggression and interference in the internal affairs of other countries.

PENTAGON INDULGED IN 'TRICKERY' OVER TRIDENT EXPENSES

LD310813Y Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 23 Mar 78 p 3 LD

[A. Turanov article: "The Tricksters From the Pentagon"]

[Text] Of course, G. Washington, the first U.S. president, might have supposed that his grateful descendants would erect a monument to him, but not that they would begin to compare it with the Trident nuclear submarine....

But apparently even this is possible. Wilson of the Washington POST writes that the hull of the new Trident missile submarine will be 650 feet long--5 feet more than the height of the Washington Monument.

But it is not only this license which attracts attention in this article on the program for building the new generation of Trident submarines which, according to the Pentagon's plans, should be a "profitable means" of delivering a nuclear strike. The striking thing about it is the fact that, in about 4 months, the cost of the submarine increased by 50 percent--from $800 million in August to 1.2 billion in December. The submarine is now a recordbreaker, since, the Washington POST reports, the program for building these ships has smashed all previous records for weapons costs in all branches of the U.S. Armed Forces.

Striving to explain this somehow, the newspaper writes that the transformation of the Trident into the most expensive weapon ever "graphically illustrates the Pentagon's decision-making process", which reflects the struggle between individual groups of "Washington officials which are vying with one another over the design of the superweapon."

It would be simpler to say that the military-industrial complex has played another, familiar trick: Before the adoption of the budget the Pentagon admirals understated the cost of building the submarines, and later they demanded additional sums for these purposes--sums which will be pumped from taxpayers' pockets into the safes of the companies constructing the Trident.

TEST LAUNCH OF POSEIDON MISSILE ENDS IN FAILURE

LD302202Y Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1930 GMT 30 Mar 78 LD

[Text] According to a report from Cape Canaveral, Florida, a test-launch of a Poseidon missile from an American submarine in the Atlantic ended in failure. Military authorities stated that as a result of a failure of on-board systems, which occurred during operation of the second stage of the missile, the Poseidon went sharply off course.

AIR FORCE ORDERED TO DESIGN CRUISE MISSILE CARRIERS

LD301438Y Moscoe TASS International Service in Russian 1111 GMT 30 Mar 78 LD

[Text] London, 30 March TASS--U.S. Defense Secretary H. Brown has instructed the American Air Force to work out a plan for a new aircraft capable of carrying cruise missiles. This is reported by the REUTER agency, which has managed to obtain a copy of H. Brown's secret memorandum to President J. Carter.

The aircraft, the agency writes, is to be developed on the basis of a military or civilian transport aircraft. The memorandum says that at present, the possibility of building 100 carrier-aircraft and 6,000 cruise missiles is under consideration.

American Government circles think, REUTER points out, that the cost of building 100 carrier-aircraft will amount to approximately $8 billion, while the cost of the cruise missiles for them will be approximately $5-6 billion.

AMERICAN PROPAGANDA REORGANIZATION REPRESENTS NO CHANGE

LD301031Y Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 22 Mar 78 Morning Edition p 3 LD

[V. Petrusenko article: "Pie With a Filling"]

[Text] The process of the merger of the USIA and the State Department Bureau for Educational and Cultural Affairs is nearing completion in Washington. On the way, various versions emerged for the name of the new headquarters of U.S. foreign propaganda. It looks as though they have settled on the title, International Communications Agency.

The Senate Foreign Relations Committee recently met for a special session to appoint J. Reinhardt, formerly head of the USIA, to the post of director of the International Communications Agency. The legislators were interested in how the present Washington propaganda perturbation was being interpreted abroad.

In reply, they heard that foreign commentators regard it merely as an "internal reorganization," in other words, other countries expect no change at all in the foreign information activity of the Washington apparatus and regard the new propaganda pie it has prepared as a pie without any filling.

But the whole point is that many commentators in various countries have assessed the present reorganization as a step devised to intensify the expansion of U.S. imperialism in the ideological and cultural areas. Here it has been stressed that the planned expansion is directing part of its efforts toward the countries of the Third World, where there are increasingly loud and resolute demands for an end to the impudent imposition of imperialist propaganda on them.

Back in June last year, J. Reinhardt complained of the sharp criticism which U.S. information and propaganda programs are encountering in the Third World. At the time he was supported by J. Valenti, president of the Motion Picture Association of America, former CIA director W. Colby, E. Heiskell, chairman of the board of directors of TIME Incorporated, and other leaders of the information and propaganda business. They spoke at congressional hearings on the problems of international communications and information, militating for the intensification of collaboration with foreign governments and private propaganda and the insuring of most-favored-nation status for U.S. propaganda workers in Third World countries. These speeches in fact demanded that the countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America renounce their sovereign rights in the area of information.

It was soon after these summer hearings that the present propaganda perturbation in Washington began. Of course, it was impossible to manage without "internal reorganization." But it was not restricted to this alone. And if it was restricted, then it was only in the writings of some mythical commentators whose "opinions" were flaunted before the senators.

VOA Activity Increased

LD292315Y Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1230 GMT 29 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Washington--The management of the radio station Voice of America has decided to step up its propaganda directed at countries abroad. Its director, Peter Strauss, speaking in the National Press Club in Washington, stressed that this intention is part of a reorganization of the propaganda apparatus of the United States which is currently being carried out.

As was already reported, within the framework of this reorganization based on the U.S. information agencies, USIA and the State Department Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, a new department is being created--the American agency of information and cultural exchanges--under whose control the Voice of America is to be placed. This reform, in the words of Strauss, must improve the "effectiveness" of the work of the radio station and other radio broadcasts, which are waging subversive information activities against the socialist countries. Official Washington, as President J. Carter once stated, sees the system of foreign broadcasts as "one of the key elements of American foreign policy."

In this connection the White House places particular emphasis on the further increase in activities by subversive radio stations. In recent times, the director of the Voice of America said, the scale of broadcasting support for Washington "has been considerably extended." At present it broadcasts in 36 languages for 800 hours per week. Twelve new radio transmitters are being installed--four each in Britain, Liberia and in the Philippines--and the question of increasing the numbers of languages in which broadcasts are being made is being examined, Strauss noted.

NEWSDAY EXPOSES FALSIFIED OPINION POLLS ON DETENTE

LD291834Y Moscow TASS in English 1802Z GMT 29 Mar 78 LD

[Text] New York, March 29, TASS--The American opponents of detente are not above using any methods, including crude falsification, just to smear efforts directed at improving Soviet-American relations, to balloon the myth about the "Soviet military menace," to impede Soviet-American Strategic Arms Limitation Talks. This is pointed out by the newspaper NEWSDAY which comments on the recent so-called public opinion polls conducted in the United States by some reactionary organisations.

The paper cites the example of an "analysis" of public opinion made by the Council for American Security and published by the mouthpiece of the military-industrial complex AVIATION WEEK AND SPACE TECHNOLOGY. It contends that most Americans are allegedly against the conclusion with the USSR of new agreements in the field of limitation of strategic arms and demand a further build up of the already astronomical military budget of the United States.

The attitude to such polls should be a very cautious one, NEWSDAY writes. The matter is that the methods of such polls are obviously non-scientific and the questions that were asked were prejudiced ones. AVIATION WEEK, the paper continues, failed to say that the prime aim of the Council for American Security is to struggle against detente, to campaign for increasing military spendings and to uphold the "need" of manufacturing such armaments as the B-1 bomber, the cruise missile and the neutron bomb. This organisation mistrusts any talks on the limitation of strategic armaments between the United States and the Soviet Union. Hence the tendentious posing of questions, the paper continues.

The results of such "analyses" (a similar one is being made by the Senate Election Campaign Committee of the Republican Party) are a rude fabrication, NEWSDAY states. Why are such "analyses" conducted at all, why do the people who oppose detente and support increased arms spendings find it necessary to doctor facts and present public opinion in a distorted light.

There is only one answer to this, NEWSDAY stresses: True American public opinion does not coincide with the viewpoint of the authors of such "analyses." At the same time the results of all authoritative polls show that the overwhelming majority of Americans want the attainment of new agreements on the limitation of strategic arms, want an expansion of trade and stand for other elements that constitute the policy of detente. The overwhelming majority of Americans believes that the mutual reduction of armaments is the top priority task in Soviet-American relations.

There is nothing surprising in that, when encountering the common sense of the overwhelming majority of the American people, the opponents of detente and the mutual reduction of armaments have to resort to juggling with facts and to their distorted interpretation, the paper writes.

FBI STEPPING UP SECURITY MEASURES AGAINST TERRORISM

LD301406Y Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1015 GMT 30 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Washington, 3 March--The American secret police is beginning a new campaign which will make it possible to keep virtually any U.S. citizen under supervision.

Speaking at a press conference here, the new FBI director, William Webster, stated that his department is hurriedly drawing up "emergency plans for combatting political terrorism" in the U.S. The compilation of a "dossier on potential terrorists" is a highly worrying aspect of the FBI program for the American public.

As is well known, the FBI has, for many years under various pretexts, indulged in the mass illegal shadowing of Americans, flouting their civil rights. The present excuse cannot fool anyone. The FBI will, just as before, concentrate on the activity and persecution of progressive U.S. organizations and the persecution of dissidents.

The FBI boss refused to go into the details of the "emergency plans." Nevertheless, he did not leave any doubts about the fact that the bureau is again getting virtually unrestricted freedom of action in determining "potentially dangerous" persons. Any American can be included in this number.

NEW EVIDENCE OF CIA INVOLVEMENT IN KENNEDY ASSASSINATION

LD281720Y Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1250 GMT 28 Mar 78 LD

[Text] New York, 28 March--TASS correspondent Nikolay Setunskiy reports: New facts are constantly coming to light testifying to the CIA's participation in the plot to assassinate U.S. President John Kennedy, thus disproving the official version of the Warren Commission that it was the action of a "solo assassin."

As the New York TIMES reports, ex-CIA man, James Wilcott, who worked in the Tokyo department of this intelligence agency in the 50s and 60s, told a closed session of the special commission of the House of Representatives, which is involved in investigating the circumstances of the "crime of the century", that L. Oswald had been a secret CIA agent back in 1957-58.

Wilcott revealed that immediately after the President's assassination, a number of CIA officials told him confidentially that Oswald was an "active member" of the spy department. Under oath, Wilcott gave the surnames of several present CIA officials who, in his words, would be able to provide more detailed information on this question. He added that for many years he had been trying to publish these facts but no one would venture to print such information.

The fact that the CIA was involved in the tragic events in Dallas was known to the U.S. public even earlier. There was a great response in the United States to the revelation of the attempts by the CIA and FBI to conceal from the Warren Commission a number of very important materials which were directly relevant to the murder, including material on the links between Oswald and counterrevolutionary Cuban circles in the United States. It is also known that the CIA and the FBI hindered the attempts by the Warren Commission to set up their own staff of investigators so that it was completely dependent on the services of "experts" from these special services.

More sinister facts recently came to light, showing that the CIA had had a hand in the crime in Dallas. Thus, in December last year the ASSOCIATED PRESS obtained secret FBI documents from which it is clear that the bullets which struck J. Kennedy were prepared for a special order by the Marine Corps, although they did not fit any of the standard corps firearms. The conclusion was drawn from this that the CIA ordered them through front men.

Serious suspicions are also aroused among the public by the mysterious circumstances of the deaths of a number of persons connected in one way or another with the crime in Texas.

Wilcott's evidence, although it does not provide an exhaustive answer to many questions connected with the murder of Kennedy, does allow the curtain to be raised a little on the crime. The fingerprints of the CIA are becoming more and more evident on this whole case.

CIA'S PERSECUTION OF AMERICAN BLACKS EXTENDED TO AFRICA

LD301448Y Moscow TASS in English 1437 GMT 30 Mar 78 LD

[Text] New York, March 30 TASS--TASS correspondent Nikolay Setunskiy reports: One more aspect of the CIA's criminal activities in persecuting "politically-unreliable" Americans in the USA and beyond it has come to public knowledge. As is reported by the New York TIMES, the CIA drew up and carried out a plan for "neutralising" a number of Negro public organizations, including the Black Panther Party, in order to crush them.

Referring to high-placed officials in the CIA, the newspaper says that it used for the purpose a variety of means from spying on Negro "radicals" to infiltrating their ranks with the help of secret informers and agents provocateurs. CIA agents attended meetings, photographed their participants and started dossiers on hundreds of persons.

In its espionage activities the CIA did not confine itself to the territory of the USA. As is known, many Negro activists had to emigrate in order to escape prosecution and police terror. Some of them settled down in a number of African countries. But the CIA did not leave them alone there.

It recruited from among American Negroes informers who were sent to Algeria, Kenya, Tanzania and other African countries. Agents provocateurs used a variety of disguises. In "a north African country", a CIA agent opened a small hotel to which he attracted "radical" emigres by low charges in order to spy on them. Another informer won the confidence of "dissidents" by posing as a "pressman." In Nairobi (Kenya) espionage functions were carried out by staff members of the U.S. Embassy.

New revelations concerning the criminal actions of "cloak and dagger knights" shed additional light on the scale of spying on Americans, trampling of their rights and violations of constitutional guarantees. These facts show once more that the CIA impudently violates the sovereignty of independent, in this case, African, states in defiance of the standards and principles of international law.

INTERIOR REPORTS HIGH RADIATION LEVEL ON BIKINI ATOLL

LD290920Y Moscow TASS in English 0915 GMT 29 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Washington, March 29 TASS--Atoll Bikini, the U.S. former nuclear proving ground, remains unfit for habitation. This conclusion has been drawn by the United States Department of the Interior almost ten years overdue. As far back as in 1968 the U.S. authorities allowed 100 out of 500 residents of Atoll Bikini to return to the land of their forefathers. The decision was based on the estimates by the Atomic Energy Commission, which concluded that the radiation level on the atoll was no hazard to human health.

At present, experts of the Departments of Energy and the Interior established that the stay in atoll will be hazardous for another 35-50 years.

Several tens of explosions of atomic and hydrogen weapons were set off there before the end of the fifties. The once flowering land was turned into a lifeless desert. At present, the United States Government is working out plans to resettle the residents of Atoll Bikini who became 'human guinea pigs' of the American nuclear programme.

SESSION OF BULGARIAN NATIONAL ASSEMBLY REPORTED

LD201323Y Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 23 Mar 78 Morning Edition p 4 LD

[Text] Sofia 22 March TASS--The latest session of the Bulgarian National Assembly has been held here. T. Zhivkov, first secretary of the BCP Central Committee and chairman of the Bulgarian State Council, participated in its work.

A report on the activity of the republic's government over the past year was delivered by S. Todorov, chairman of the Bulgarian Council of Ministers. He noted that the republic's economy continued to develop over the past year. Bulgaria's international prestige has grown stronger. The main content of the government's work last year, the speaker said, was activity aimed at fulfilling the decisions of the 11th BCP Congress.

The speaker noted the tremendous significance of the further deepening of Bulgaria's integration with the CEMA member countries and above all with the Soviet Union for the development of the Bulgarian economy and for the enhancement of its efficiency.

A distinguishing feature of the international situation in the past year, S. Todorov stressed, was the continuing reduction of tension. The main service is being rendered in this sphere by the Leninist peace-loving foreign policy of the Soviet Union and other fraternal socialist countries.

The Bulgarian Government, the speaker stressed, highly values the development of fraternal friendship and cooperation between Bulgaria and the great Soviet Union. The course toward an all-round raprochement with the Soviet Union is deepening and is acquiring more and more dimensions. During the visit to the USSR in May and June 1977 of a Bulgarian party and government delegation headed by Comrade T. Zhivkov, and during its meeting and talks with a USSR party and government delegation headed by Comrade L.I. Brezhnev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, important agreements were reached on putting new forms of integration into practice.

Over the 30 years which have elapsed since the signing of the first friendship, cooperation and mutual assistance treaty between Bulgaria and the USSR, Bulgarian-Soviet friendship has flourished and has become a decisive factor of the building of socialism and of the development of Bulgaria.

The decision adopted on the report stresses that the Bulgarian Government must implement even more energetically the party's policy in all spheres of state and public life, continue its active peace-loving foreign policy for the purpose of further developing fraternal friendship and all-round cooperation with the Soviet Union and the other countries of the socialist community and for consolidating peace in the Balkans, in Europe, and throughout the world, and make a contribution to the implementation of the final act of the Helsinki all-European conference.

YUGOSLAVIA'S MINIC STOPS IN KIEV ON WAY HOME

AU3009llY Kiev Domestic Service in Ukrainian 1800 GMT 29 Mar 78 AU

[Text] On his way home, Minic, LCY Central Committee Presidium member, Federal Executive Council vice chairman and federal secretary for foreign affairs, today made a stop in Kiev. At Borispol Airport he was welcomed by Ukrainian Council of Ministers Deputy Chairman Stepanenko, Ukrainian Foreign Affairs Minister Shevel and other officials. The welcoming party included SFRY Consul General in Kiev Aleksic.

GROMYKO GREETS ROMANIA'S ANDREI ON NEW APPOINTMENT

LD300931Y Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 28 Mar 78 p 4 LD

[Text] TASS--A.A. Gromyko, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and USSR foreign minister, has sent a telegram to Stefan Andrei, cand idate member of the RCP Central Committee Political Executive Committee, congratulating him on his appointment as Romanian foreign minister. I wish you, the telegram says, successes in your activity for the sake of the Romanian people and in the interests of further strengthening fraternal friendship and cooperation between our countries and between all the socialist community countries in their struggle to strengthen peace and international security.

POLAND'S WRZASZCZYK MEETS WITH USSR'S KATUSHEV

LD310924Y Warsaw PAP in English 0208 GMT 31 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Warsaw, 31 March, PAP--The 16th session of the CMEA committee for cooperation in planning was held here on 20-30 March. The heads of the planning bodies of the CMEA countries took part in the meeting. Poland was represented by deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers, head of the State Planning Commission Tadeusz Wrzaszczyk.

While staying in Moscow Tadeusz Wrzaszczyk held a number of talks concerning the further development of cooperation in economy, science and technology between Poland and the USSR. He met, among others, with deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers, head of the USSR's Gosplan, Nikolay Baybakov. The two sides discussed the course of implementation of the decisions adopted by the premiers of Poland and the Soviet Union on 30-31 January of the current year, as well as the questions connected with the coordination of economic plans for the years 1981-1985 which is under way now.

Tadeusz Wrzaszczyk met also Deputy Chairman of the Soviet Council of Ministers Konstantin Katushev. The talks passed in a cordial and friendly atmosphere.

HUNGARIAN PEOPLE'S CONTROL OFFICIALS VISIT USSR

LD291413Y Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 26 Mar 78 p 4 LD

[Unattributed report: "Exchange of Experience"]

[Text] A delegation of the Hungarian Central People's Control Committee, headed by J. Szakali, member of the MSZMP Central Committee and chairman of the Hungarian Central People's Control Committee, was in the Soviet Union from 20 through 25 March.

The Hungarian comrades familiarized themselves with the work experience of organs of people's control, had talks in the USSR Committee for People's Control and the Moscow and Georgian People's Control Committees, and met with the people's controllers of several industrial and agricultural enterprises. The delegation had meetings in the Georgian CP Central Committee, the Moskvoretskiy Moscow party raykom and the Gardabanskiy Georgian CP raykom.

J. Szakali, chairman of the Hungarian Central People's Control Committee, was received by I.V. Kapitonov, secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, and had a warm, friendly talk with him, in which A.M. Shkolnikov, chairman of the USSR People's Control Committee, took part.

MASS PROTESTS FORCE POSTPONEMENT OF NATO NEUTRON MEETING

LD250706Y Moscow TASS in English 0644 GMT 25 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, March 25, TASS--The movement of protest against the neutron bomb whose deployment in Western Europe would considerably increase the risk of an outbreak of a nuclear war is widening with every day. It is joined by people of different political views and convictions, Vladimir Bolshakov writes in PRAVDA. Mankind says a resolute "no" to the neutron bomb.

Pointing out that NATO leaders decided to put off indefinitely a meeting of representatives of governments of West European states on the question of deployment of neutron weapons, the commentator writes that this fact in itself shows against what difficulties the United States came up in its attempts to impose a new barbarous weapon on its NATO allies. There is no doubt that the mass movement of protest against this weapon was one of the main reasons why the "neutron meeting" in Brussels was put off, the commentary says.

The commentary points out that the Soviet Union's proposal to Western countries on mutual renunciation of production of neutron weapons met with a broad support throughout the world. The commentary also points to awkward attempts of NATO propaganda to present the matters in such a way as if the Soviet Union protests against the neutron bomb for the sole reason that it has no such weapons. But all realistically-minded people are aware of the fact that the USSR has the possibilities of creating any weapon that can be opposed to any "novelties" of the Pentagon, Vladimir Bolshakov writes.

What is required by the interests of ensuring peace, the commentator writes, is not competition in the sphere of nuclear weapons of mass destruction, but the speediest ending of the arms race to prevent it from reaching a qualitatively new and practically uncontrollable stage. "It is precisely from these positions that the Soviet Union is waging the struggle for peace and disarmament, for the elimination of the nuclear threat." This struggle comes up against fierce opposition of the enemies of detente. "The neutron meeting" in Brussels is merely put off, not cancelled. Consultations at the highest NATO level on development of neutron weapons continue. The Pentagon seeks to bring such weapons in Western Europe in one way or another.

U.S., NATO PRESSURE W. EUROPE TO ACCEPT NEUTRON BOMB

LD310422Y Moscow TASS in English 0227 GMT 31 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, March 30, TASS--TASS news analyst Yevgeniy Babenko writes:

The leaders of the NATO bloc, especially the leaders of the Pentagon, are working hard to secure as soon as possible the White House's decision to begin the manufacture of neutron warheads, a new type of weapon of mass annihilation and to deploy them in Western Europe. Public opinion in the NATO countries is being intensively conditioned, while in Brussels the United States is holding consultations with its Atlantic allies.

All kind of arguments are invented in the USA and NATO to give this new barbarous weapon a "market appeal." The advocates of the escalation of nuclear weapons describe it as some "harmless" weapon of enhanced radiation, a "more humanitarian" and "cleaner" weapon than the existing "dirty" nuclear bomb.

The U.S. State Department has also made its contribution on inventing new arguments in favour of the neutron bomb.

A few days ago, they in the State Department again came out in defence of this Pentagon's "misunderstood" creation, saying that the nuclear bomb is allegedly a "defensive weapon." State Department leaders are trying to "assure" their compatriots that neutron warheads are intended only for the European place d'armes.

It is not for nothing that Europe is often called a much-suffering land. It is in Europe that the bloodiest wars in man's history have taken place, and these are well remembered by the European peoples. It is quite understandable, therefore, why not a single sober-minded European has any desire to receive with open arms the importunate overseas visitors who offer new frightful weapons.

The persistent advocacy by Washington and the NATO war hawks of the idea of turning Western Europe into an explosive neutron power keg is in sharp contrast with the peaceful aspirations of the European and all other peoples.

More and more people on this planet join in the mass movement against a new round of the arms race and against attempts to whitewash the barbarous neutron weapon.

The Soviet proposal for mutual refusal to manufacture the neutron weapons has drawn broad support among the world public. Many political, public and religious leaders of the West speak out in favour of general renunciation of the neutron bomb, regarding this as an effective step toward disarmament.

The alternative to such a reasonable step is a new dangerous leap in the arms race. Certain circles in the USA as well as the NATO leaders deliberately shut the eyes to this, but one cannot fail to see all the consequences of the escalation of nuclear armaments. Can one stay aloof from the powerful world-wide campaign against the neutron weapon?

UK HAS 'RARE' OPPORTUNITY TO PREVENT NEW ARMS RACE

LD292055Y Moscow in English to Great Britain and Ireland 1900 GMT 29 Mar 78 LD

[Commentary by TASS observer Vladimir Vasilyev]

[Text] Although the negotiations on limiting strategic offensive arms are conducted only between the representatives of the United States and the Soviet Union, this in no way signifies that the nature and the results of the discussions depend on those two countries alone. Third countries also have a certain influence, and among them Britain, which more than anybody else can influence them very greatly.

This conclusion hardly needs proving. After all, Britain has the third largest nuclear potential in the world. It is also the United States' closest ally. So, its constructive proposals in favour of disarmament would have the greatest impact on America and the whole world. Unfortunately in this respect London has very little to its credit, if not to say nothing at all. London has not produced a single worthwhile idea that could indeed stimulate the search for ways to achieve the limitation of arms, let alone disarmament.

On the contrary, the latest reports seem to indicate that London could seriously hinder the already tortuously slow process of limiting strategic arms.

Member of Parliament Frank Allaun pointed out recently the British Government intends to go back on its election promise that Britain would not harm herself with a new generation of strategic missiles. Mr Allaun demanded from the Defense Minister Frederick Mulley that we name the sum already spent on developing cruise-type missiles. THE TIMES recently noted that the possibilities of producing a new generation of rockets to replace the Polaris rockets independently or with the help of the United States had been under study for a long time now.

When the first treaty was concluded between the Soviet Union and the United States, Britain's nuclear forces were not taken into account. This was a very great concession on the part of the Soviet Union because Britain's forces are directed against the Soviet Union, and against it alone. The replacement of Polaris missiles by new and more modern weapons would surely increase the threat to the Soviet Union and we necessarily must take this into account at the subsequent stages of the talks on limiting arms. Quite obviously, this would make it even more difficult to reach agreement.

Or take the neutron bomb. If it gets the green light then a new spiral will have been added to the arms race. That is inevitable. The responsibility for this would fall on those who initiated that new spiral. The situation as it now stands is that should one of the major West European countries say no, the United States would most probably give up the whole idea. After all, the bomb is being created for Western Europe. The world would then have been saved from at least one qualitatively new type of nuclear weapon. This would indeed be a real step forward towards curbing the arms race. That by the way is what the Soviet Union suggests doing.

West Europe and Britain in particular is being offered a rare opportunity to have the decisive say at a definite stage of the arms race. So, what do we see? Mr Callaghan gets up in the House of Commons and deals a death blow at any such hopes. What is more, the prime minister repeats that very strange idea that the Soviet Union's opposition to the neutron bomb is a propaganda exercise since it does not itself have such a weapon. The question that simply begs itself is: Does the West seriously believe that it will have a monopoly on the neutron bomb? Surely, the whole history of the nuclear arms race suggests the exact opposite. There seems to be an amazing ability to turn a deaf ear to the arguments of reason. It goes without saying that the neutron bomb will make the prospects for disarmament talks even less hopeful. But the bomb would do nothing to add to West European security. The NATO strategists like to talk about neutron weapons as practical antitank weapons. But is is absurd to imagine that the use of nuclear weapons by one side would not trigger off nuclear retaliation. Yet that is exactly what the NATO doctrine of nuclear warheads to be used against tanks is based on. Those who believe it are deceiving themselves and others.

It seems to me that the British public is looking at things much more soberly. The organizers of the campaign collecting signatures to the no to the neutron bomb petition realize perfectly well that its appearance would greatly increase the danger of a nuclear war erupting. British peace fighters also realize equally well the role their country could play in preventing this. As Dan Rees, one of the leaders of the nuclear disarmament campaign pointed out: If Britain came out against the Pentagon plans the chances of the neutron bomb being deployed in West Europe would be very slim indeed.

It is not yet too late to achieve this goal and so reduce the nuclear danger looming over the world.

UK MINISTER'S CSCE COMMENTS PROMPT ANTI-SOVIET ACTS

LD231113Y Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 21 Mar 78 Morning Edition p 4 LD

[O. Vasilyev dispatch: "Onslaughts by Fascistic Elements"]

[Text] London--Every day thousands of people Fill London's Olympia Hall. The popular annual "Ideal Home" Exhibition is being held there. Among the many stands at the exhibition is a Soviet stand on which Eksportles is showing the goods of our furniture industry.

The stand's work was sharply disrupted a few days ago. A group of people burst in and, shouting anti-Soviet and Zionist slogans, staged a hooligan uproar. It was 40 minutes before the guardians of law and order arrived. Activity at the Soviet stand was paralyzed throughout that time.

The same day similar hooligan onslaughts were perpetrated against an Aeroflot office and the Intourist premises.

As we can see, these hostile demonstrations, onslaughts and hooligan actions vis-a-vis Soviet economic organizations, their staff and their visitors are becoming increasingly systematic. One gains the impressions that the activation of various anti-Soviet groups and Zionist organizations here is no accident. The Belgrade meeting of representatives of the states which participated in the all-European conference completed its work recently. Sober-minded British people are expressing satisfaction at its results, while the British bourgeois press has greeted the final results of the Belgrade meeting with at best irritation and at worst malicious commentaries. But the surprising thing is that Lord Goronwy Roberts, minister of state for foreign affairs, who headed the British delegation at the Belgrade meeting, has joined in this chorus of mourners.

The remarks of other ministers cannot be disregarded. Various anti-Soviet organizations have swung into action seeing these remarks as encouragement to mount new campaigns against Soviet territory and its institutions on British soil.

POLITICAL, ECONOMIC RELATIONS WITH BRITAIN DESCRIBED

LD300753Y Moscow TASS in English 0735 GMT 30 Mar 78 LD

["Artificial Skepticism"--TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow, March 30, TASS--The TASS political commentator Askold Biryukov writes:

There are people in Britain, sometimes very influential, who dislike any improvement and development of Soviet-British relations. They play a leading part in fanning various noisy anti-Soviet campaigns. On their initiative, the British press periodically points concoctions on a "Soviet military threat," on some "violations of human rights" in the USSR, and organizes the defence of "dissidents," etc. On various pretexts, the relations between our countries are being attacked. Now these people, don't you see, dislike how the Belgrade meeting of representatives of states, participating in the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, ended and they hammer away at "growth of mutual distrust," the beginning of some "epoch of cooling off" in the relations with our country. Now they dislike the expansion of commercial and economic contacts with the USSR and they begin asserting that the understandings reached in the Moscow summit talks in February 1975 are "dead" in the light of the Belgrade meeting.

They have only one approach to the prospects of development of relations with the USSR: how to open channels for the "export" to the Soviet Union of such subversive "goods," which the West unsuccessfully tried to impose upon the socialist countries during the Belgrade meeting.

In any aspect of Soviet-British relations, it is self-evident that these assertions are unsubstantiated. The Moscow summit in 1975 made it possible to attach a regular nature to the political contacts between the two countries. Consultations between them on international and bilateral problems became traditional. Andrey Gromyko, member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee and foreign minister of the USSR, paid an official visit to London in 1976. In October last, Britain's Foreign Secretary David Owen visited Moscow. In the opinion of both sides, these visits made a very fruitful impact on the further development of relations between the two countries. Another round of political consultations has been scheduled for this year.

Exchanges at ministerial level have become more lively, contacts between members of Parliament have become more regular. Cultural exchange has been stepped up. All this, undoubtedly, is of great importance for the growth of mutual understanding and confidence between the peoples.

Commercial and economic contacts have already become much brisker in recent years. Whereas the volume of trade between them was 959 million roubles in 1975. the figure for 1977 was already 1,333 million roubles. This was largely facilitated by the long-term programme of development of economic and industrial cooperation and the credit agreement, signed in 1975. In the course of their implementation, big contracts were concluded for the delivery of various equipment to the USSR. By the end of 1977, half the credits granted to the Soviet Union had been used and judging from the talks on various contracts, which are now in various stages, the rest will also probably be used. It must be noted that in the development of commercial and economic contacts with our country, Britain still lags behind the other Western trade partners of the Soviet Union. The British themselves acknowledged that Britain's industry has been hampered by all kinds of bans and restrictions, established by the West in trade with socialist countries, including the USSR. The USSR does its utmost for the expansion of mutually advantageous and long-term exchange with Britain. Efforts and understanding from both sides, however, are necessary for progress in this field.

Judging from the results of the first seminar on the development of commercial and economic, scientific and technical cooperation, held in London recently within the framework of the long-term programme of 1975 and attended by leaders of the British confederation industry and other British organizations of employers and leading firms, such understanding exists. Both countries have sound opportunities for the development of cooperation of a scope not inferior to the level of trade between the USSR and other industrial-developed capitalist powers. The FINANCIAL TIMES noted in this context that the prospects of Anglo-Soviet trade have evidently much improved after the London talks held by Dhzerman Gvishiani, the vice chairman of the State Committee of the Council of Ministers of the USSR for Science and Technology, with leaders of the British confederation industry during this seminar.

The skepticism spread by some influential British circles concerning the expediency of transacting business with the Soviet Union is thus absolutely unfounded. The development of Soviet-British contacts is shaping favourably and what has been achieved is obviously not the limit. There is a sound foundation and broad opportunities for the further all-round development of these relations in various fields.

Incidentally, is this not borne out by repeated pronouncements in the past both by Premier James Callaghan and Foreign Secretary David Owen in favour of detente, peace and tranquility, the development of relations of peaceful coexistence and cooperation on the European Continent? All that is needed is that these fine words be more often reinforced by specific deeds, that British officials be more consistent in upholding the lofty principles and aims they are advocating. And there is no doubt that this would cool the ardour of those who dislike sound development of Soviet-British relations for the sake of the peoples of the two countries, for the sake of European and universal peace.

PORTUGUESE FORCED TO MAKE CONCESSIONS TO IMF

LD252046Y Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0903 GMT 25 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Lisbon--TASS correspondent Sergey Staroselskiy reports:

As the local press reports, the talks between Portugal and the IMF will resume before the end of March. The talks will be about the loan which the IMF promised to grant Portugal on condition of "internal stability" which the IMF understands as a reduction in production and consumption in Portugal, restriction of wage rises for working people and the priority development of the private sector of the economy.

These IMF demands embody such a patent interference in Porgugal's internal affairs that the one-party cabinet of the Socialists headed by M. Soares was at the time forced to propose a vote of confidence in parliament in this connection. When the majority of the deputies gave a negative answer the government resigned.

However, the new coalition cabinet of the Socialists and the Social-Democratic Center has made concessions to virtually all demands made by the IMF, the fulfillment of which, the left-wing press notes, would be a heavy burden first of all for the Portuguese working people.

OPPOSITION IN SPAIN TO ENTRY INTO NATO CITED

LD292044Y Moscow TASS in English 1957 GMT 29 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Madrid, March 29, TASS--The Spanish public is watching with alarm the activities of the USA and NATO military strategists who are trying to drag Spain into NATO and for this reason have launched a veritable offensive on Madrid. They try thus to establish their control over a strategically important area of the Mediterranean and at the same time to strengthen NATO's southern flank.

A meeting of the Spanish-American Commission for Coordination with NATO, set up in accordance with the 1976 Spanish-American treaty, was held in Madrid. Taking part in the commission's work were representatives of the U.S. State Department and the Pentagon. Early in March the chief of the Spanish General Staff Lieutenant General Felipe Galarza Sanchez paid a visit to Britain. As noted by the newspaper EL PAIS, representatives of the British command discussed with him problems of Spain's possible joining of NATO.

In his attempt to "lure" Spain into the NATO bloc the British Foreign Secretary David Owen stated in an interview to the weekly "Panorama" that Spain's joining of NATO would greatly "help" the resolution of the Anglo-Spanish dispute over Gibraltar.

All these manoeuvres alarm the public and many politicians. Speaking in Las Palmas (Canary Islands), the General Secretary of the Spanish Socialist Workers' Party Filipe Gonzalez stressed that it was against Spanish national interests to join NATO. Enrique Tierno Galvan, chairman of the Socialist People's Party, also opposed joining the North Atlantic bloc. "Spain should not be in NATO", he said at a press conference. "Any drawing closer of Spain with that organization places it in even greater dependence on the United States and denies it a possibility to promote an independent foreign policy." The attention of the press was attracted by a statement made by the Chairman of the Congress of Deputies Alvarez de Miranda, leader of the Christian Democratic Party, one of the main political organizations belonging to the ruling grouping, the Union of Democratic Centre. Addressing a group of journalists, he expressed doubt whether Spain could benefit from membership in NATO.

GROMYKO TO ATTEND FINNISH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

LD281508Y Moscow TASS in English 1507 GMT 28 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, March 28, TASS--Andrey Gromyko, member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee, foreign minister of the USSR, will lead a Soviet governmental delegation to celebrations of the 30th anniversary of the Soviet-Finnish treaty of friendship, cooperation and mutual assistance due in April.

The delegation was invited by President of the Republic of Finland Urho Kekkonen and the Government of Finland.

BRIEFS

METALWORKERS' CONFERENCE IN TURIN--Moscow, March 30, TASS--"The conference in Turin once again convinced us that the metal workers, handling many common problems, can act jointly regardless of ideological differences or various international affiliation of trade unions," Nikolay Dragunov, chairman of the central committee of the Automobile, Tractor and Farm Engineering Workers' Union, told a correspondent of the trade-union newspaper TRUD. He headed the Soviet delegation to the Second International Conference of the Metal and Automotive Workers' Unions, in which representatives of 19 countries took part. "We thoroughly discussed the trade unions' activities aimed at improving working conditions at engineering enterprises, their role in the solution of concrete problems of the organization of labour," the delegation leader said, appraising the conference's results. The participants in the conference pointed out that in the USSR and other socialist countries there is no problem of unemployment, and the trade unions play an immense role in the cause of improving the organization of work, he said. [Text] [Moscow TASS in English 1023 GMT 30 Mar 78 LD]

WEIZMAN CAIRO VISIT MEANT TO REANIMATE SEPARATE TALKS

LD310334Y Moscow TASS in English 0243 GMT 30 Mar 78 LD

["Economics in Cairo's Policies"--TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow, March 30, TASS--TASS economic observer Sergey Stoklitskiy writes: Despite the obvious hopelessness of the line towards a separate deal with Israel behind the backs of other Arab peoples, Egypt stubbornly continues its policy of reaching a collusion with the aggressor. This is seen from the visit of Israeli Defence Minister 'Ezer Weizman to Cairo at the invitation of the Egyptian leadership. The aim of the visit is a reanimation of the deadlocked Egyptian-Israeli separate talks. But what makes the Egyptian leaders to chase the mirage of "separate peace" with a persistence worthy of a better use? It is a blind and shaky hope that not everything has been lost, and that the Washington patrons will at last find the keys to the Middle East deadlock created by its Israeli allies. But this is not the only reason.

As-Sadat's foreign policy line has deep underlying socioeconomic reasons. The fiasco of the economic policy of "infitah" (or "open doors") and the sensational pilgrimage of the Egyptian president to Jerusalem are hardly an accidental coincidence. On the contrary, the latter is rather a logical consequence of the former. The official Cairo has resorted to a "peace initiative" in order to take a revenge in politics for the economic failures. And nobody doubts today that Egypt's national economy has many a yawning gap today. Everyone received something from "infitah": the private owner--his benefit, and black marketeers--profits of a dubious nature. Western businessmen were offered profitable contracts and privileges through the "open door." The country got enormous foreign debts. But what about common Egyptians? A publicity performance of As-Sadat's pilgrimage to Jerusalem and a not easy search for the daily bread.

True, the volume of foreign aid granted to Cairo by the West, above all by the United States, is growing simultaneously with "infitah". But the political strings attached to it are also growing. It is becoming increasingly obvious that a part of foreign loans was granted to Egypt last year on condition, which was at least kept secret, that it will considerably improve relations with Israel, the British SUNDAY TELEGRAPH wrote on this occasion, the implication being towards a capitulatory deal with Tel Aviv.

But Cairo is closing eyes to it. A continuation of separate talks is advocated, and an attempt is made there to assure that they will make it possible to reduce defence spendings, absorbing today a third of the country's gross national products, that they will in the long run return the Egyptians the hope for flourishing. But as the recent events in the Middle East have shown, hopes that a separate deal with the aggressor will give the Egyptian people "butter instead of cannons" are without a foundation. It is not a shaky truce but a firm and all-embracing peace that is the sole basis on which it is possible to resolve the country's vital social and economic problems.

Egyptian Concessions Expected

LD301705Y Moscow TASS in English 1649 GMT 30 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Beirut, March 30, TASS--Israeli Defence Minister Weizman has arrived in Cairo today at the personal invitation of Egyptian War Minister al-Jamasi. The aim of his visit is a reanimation of the Egyptian-Israeli separate talks, which deadlocked already more than two months ago.

It is not without reason that Israel hopes that Egypt will agree to a resumption of the work of the bilateral military and political committees established after As-Sadat's visit to the occupied Jerusalem and Begin's return visit to Egypt. Weizman intends to discuss these questions at a meeting with As-Sadat. It is noteworthy that the Egyptian side has agreed to a resumption of direct contacts with Israel, in spite of the fact that the latter's stand has further toughened. Tel Aviv, encouraged by Washington, openly declares that withdrawal of Israeli troops from all the occupied Arab territories or recognition of the legitimate right of the Arab people of Palestine to creation of its independent state are out of the question.

The Israeli leaders believe that As-Sadat, who openly betrayed the interests of the Arab peoples, has so deeply stuck in his capitulatory policy that he will further be forced to agree to fresh concessions. They demand that the Egyptian president renounce the very right of Egypt to exercise its sovereignty over Sinai Peninsula, captured by the Israeli troops. The Begin government insists that Egypt should agree to a demilitarisation of those areas of Sinai, which are controlled by the Egyptians, to the preservation of a wide network of Israeli militarised settlements in the rest of the areas of Sinai Peninsula, to the presence of Israeli troops in such strategic points as Sharm ash-Shaykh. In conformation of its annexationist claims Israel has started the other day the working of a big oil deposit in south-west of Sinai.

Under these conditions, the very invitation of Weizman to Cairo indicates that the Egyptian leadership intends to work for a separate deal with Israel at any price, and will agree for the sake of it to fresh, major concessions running counter to the vital interests of the Egyptian and other Arab peoples. Egyptian leaders, as the Paris newspaper LE FIGARO notes, "have no trump cards" to counter the pressure of Tel Aviv and Washington. They cannot demand concessions and threaten Israel with the use of force, as they have fully isolated themselves from the other Arab countries. At last, neither can they hope for Israel's "goodwill." Begin, Weizman and other Israeli leaders are confident that nothing has been left to Egypt apart from signing a separate agreement on Israel's terms. In the opinion of LE FIGARO this will by no means draw closer a Middle East settlement. Peace in that area, the newspaper stresses, seems to be even farther than ever before.

EGYPT'S 'ECONOMIC LIBERALIZATION' BRINGS HARDSHIPS

LD302220Y Moscow TASS in English 1848 GMT 30 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Cairo, March 30, TASS--TASS correspondent Nikolay Zaborin writes: Debates on economic problems that were started in the People's Assembly (parliament) of the Arab Republic of Egypt showed to the Egyptians again what hardships are brought to them by the policy of "economic liberalisation" conducted by the present government.

The prices of industrial goods and farm products in the Arab Republic of Egypt rose on an average by 60 per cent in the past fourteen months alone, said Abdallah, a deputy from the National Progressive (left) Party of Egypt. The prices of vegetables and fruit doubled, the prices of fabrics rose by over 50 per cent. The cost of building materials and many other goods and services increased by 30 per cent. It should also be noted that experiencing an acute shortage of funds, the government, the newspaper AL-AHALI writes, issues a great number of banknotes, which aggravates the inflation and makes it more difficult for the country to overcome the grave economic crisis. All this has a disastrous effect on the living standards of the Egyptian people. Even going by official data, half of the population has "limited incomes," that is, is actually half-starving.

TEXT OF ITEM ON EGYPT'S RELATIONSHIP TO CENTO

LD301419Y Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 25 Mar 78 p 3 LD

[V. Vinogradov commentary: "Being Dragged into CENTO"]

[Text] A report in the influential Turkish newspaper GUNAYDIN could not go unnoticed. It wrote that the United States intends to draw Egypt into the orbit of the CENTO military bloc in the Near and Middle East and that Cairo has greeted this idea positively.

The brief report has given rise to a large number of questions. For, you might wonder, what can Egypt, which in only the recent past was at the forefront of the struggle against imperialism and the forces of reaction, have in common with the CENTO military bloc, which has been regarded by the United States from the very first days of its creation as a tool for suppressing the national liberation movement in this region of the world? It is known, for example, that U.S. imperialism used the CENTO war machine to suppress the liberation struggle in the Oman Province of Dhofar.

It is no secret that Washington devotes very close attention to the region of the Near and Middle East because of its important strategic position and tremendous oil reserves. Concerned about the fate of its interests in this region, the United States is formulating plans for the creation of a new "defense line" here. And it is not hard to guess what Washington is intending to "defend." It is primarily the Near East oil, in the uninterrupted supply of which the U.S. monopolies are so interested. U.S. strategists allocate an important place in their plans to Egypt. Washington is seeking to create a "cordon sanitaire" around the progressive states in the Near East. And to this end, the newspaper KUWAIT TIMES also writes, the United States has suggested that Egypt join the CENTO military bloc.

A. As-Sadat's positive reaction to such a suggestion attests that he is agreeable to the role which U.S. imperialism allocates to Egypt in its plans. This is also confirmed by the assurances which the Egyptian president gave during his visit to Washington--not to use U.S. weapons, if he receives them, against Israel, which is occupying Egyptian and other Arab lands.

By departing from the course of the anti-imperialist struggle and gambling on the United States As-Sadat was counting on securing the withdrawal of Israeli troops from all Egyptian territory. However, the president's hopes are crumbling like a house of cards. Tel Aviv's ruling circles publicly declare that they will never leave the militarized settlements on the Sinai Peninsula to the mercy of fate. More than that, as reported in the weekly U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT, which is close to Pentagon circles, the U.S. administration is earnestly engaged in examining the possibility of constructing a U.S. air base for the purpose of "guaranteeing Israel's security." And it is not planned to create this base just anywhere but in the Israeli-occupied part of the Sinai Peninsula! This is the double strategy of U.S. imperialism: To draw Egypt into its orbit and to insure, at its expense, the security of the Zionist state.

Possible admission to the CENTO military bloc, a U.S. military base in Sinai, unseemly participation in the conflict in the Horn of Africa--all these are stages along the path which Egypt is currently being led by its president, As-Sadat. It is a dangerous path at variance with the vital interests of the Egyptian people.

ISRAEL REPORTEDLY PRODUCING OIL FROM OCCUPIED SINAI

LD291826Y Moscow TASS in English 1635 GMT 29 Mar 78 LD

[Text] London, March 29, TASS--Israel started the commercial production of oil in the southern part of the occupied Sinai Peninsula in At-Tur area. According to the newspaper FINANCIAL TIMES three offshore wells on the Egyptian continental shelf off the eastern coast of the Gulf of Suez went into operation. Their aggregate output is up to two thousand tons of oil a day.

The Israeli authorities, according to the newspaper, granted the license for the exploitation of the areas to the American Neptune company. According to the agreement, the Israeli Government will get 75 percent of the profits.

A fourth well is to come into production in approximately a month's time, and a total extraction of oil will double within a year.

The newspaper estimates that the oil production at the four wells alone will cover one third of Israel's total oil requirements. Israel's current outlay on oil imports is 700 million dollars a year.

Representatives of the American Neptune company stated they are ready to consider a possibility of additional oil-extraction operations also in other parts of the Gulf of Suez as well.

Speaking at a ceremony to mark the commencement of the oil extraction, Yizhaq Moda'i, Israeli minister of energy, made it clear that under no circumstances Tel Aviv intends to cease extracting oil in the area by the right of "discoverer."

TUNISIAN, CUBAN OFFICIALS DISCUSS NONALINED MEETING

LD291846Y Moscow TASS in English 1810 GMT 29 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Tunis, March 29, TASS--State Secretary for Information under the prime minister of Tunisia Mustapha Masmoudi today received Fernando Florez Ibarra, head of the department of the non-aligned movement of the Cuban Foreign Ministry, who is on a visit here.

In the course of the conversation the sides discussed preparations for the second session of the intergovernmental coordinating council of nonaligned countries on questions of information that is to be held in April in Havana. They also discussed problems of information concerning the 6th nonaligned summit conference.

BRIEFS

SYRIAN POWER GRID--Damascus, March 30, TASS--Another Syrian province has been connected up to the united power grid of the Syrian Arab Republic. The towns and villages of the southern Province of Der'a will be provided with power generated by the Euphrates hydropower complex built with the USSR's assistance. Power engineers from the Soviet Union and other socialist countries also rendered assistance to their Syrian colleagues in the construction of high-voltage power transmission lines which linked the Euphrates complex with remote areas of the republic. [Text] [Moscow TASS in English 0930 GMT 30 Mar 78 LD]

GREEKS CONCERNED ABOUT GENERAL DAVOS' TALKS IN BRUSSELS

LD291215Y Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 22 Mar 78 p 5 LD

[Correspondent V. Drobkov dispatch: "Public Concern"]

[Text] Athens, 21 March--Talks are being held at NATO headquarters in Brussels between General Davos, commander in chief of the Greek Armed Forces, and General Haig, commander in chief of the North Atlantic bloc's forces in Europe. As the local press emphasizes, the chief subject of the talks is a discussion of Greece's "special relationship" with NATO, which the Greek Government is trying to establish.

According to official statements from Athens, the gist of the "special relationship" is that in peacetime the Greek Armed Forces will remain under national command, while in the event of a large-scale military conflict they will automatically pass to the united military structure of NATO. To improve "cooperation" Greek troops will take part in NATO military maneuvers, the exchange of intelligence data will be preserved and NATO communications systems will be maintained. U.S. and NATO military bases will remain on Greek territory. "For purposes of information" Greeks will participate in the work of various NATO military organs such as the Defense Planning Committee and the Nuclear Planning Group.

The parties of the democratic opposition and the progressive press have pointed out the serious concern of the Greek public over this development. What will remain of Greece's "withdrawal" from the NATO military organization, announced in 1974, in the event of the establishment of this "special relationship" between the country and the aggressive bloc?--they legitimately ask. For in that case Greece not only returns to NATO's militarist preparations in the Mediterranean and southern Europe but also promises to participate in a major armed conflict if one is unleashed by the bloc.

NATO's desire to secure as soon as possible Greece's return to the NATO military organization and the Greek Government's hints that a "special relationship" might be established in the next few months are drawing sharp protests from democratic, peace-loving forces. Such actions, they declare, run counter to the fundamental national interests of Greece and to the aspirations of its people for peace and security. They also run counter to statements by Greek officials of their desire to develop good-neighborly relations with all countries, including socialist countries.

TURKISH BAN OF BOOK CONTRAVENES OFFICIALS' DECLARATIONS

LD311032Y Moscow TASS in English 0903 GMT 31 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Ankara, March 31, TASS--A book "International Communist Movement" put out by the progressive publishing house Konuk has been confiscated in Istanbul by the court decision. The standard charge against it was "communist propaganda", the newspaper POLITIKA writes. The ban on the book placed by the authorities is contrary to declarations of officials on freedom of the press in the country, the newspaper writes.

DEPUTY DEFENSE MINISTER SOKOLOV LEAVES FOR MOZAMBIQUE

LD300957Y Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 28 Mar 78 p 3 LD

[Text] Marshal of the Soviet Union S.L. Sokolov, USSR first deputy defense minister, left Moscow on 26 March for Maputo for an official visit at the initiation of A.J. Chipande, minister of national defense of the People's Republic of Mozambique.

At the airport Marshal of the Soviet Union S.L. Sokolov was seen off by army Gen S.K. Kurkotkin, USSR deputy defense minister, and other Soviet generals and officers.

STRENGTHENING MOZAMBIQUE'S DEFENSE A MAJOR TASK

LD291800Y Moscow TASS in English 1722 GMT 29 Mar 78

[Text] Maputo, March 29, TASS--To strengthen the defense capacity of the People's Republic of Mozambique is one of the major tasks of this young African state which is being subjected to incessant acts of aggression by the neighbouring racist-ruled Rhodesia.

As the local TEMPO magazine reports, 349 such criminal attacks were made over the past twelve months alone. Intruder detachments of the Rhodesian Army, among which there are quite a number of mercenaries from the Republic of South Africa as well as the USA, Britain, France, and other western countries, atrociously deal with Mozambique civilians and Zimbabwe refugees who flee from the racist authorities' terror and repressions. Thus, more than a thousand women, children and old men were killed or injured during a large-scale raid on refugee camps at Chimoyo and Tembuye in November last year. The punitive troops that burst into the camp killed over a hundred schoolchildren directly in class rooms and a group of patients near the medical-aid station. Rhodesian aircraft, aided by "Mirage" planes of the South African Air Force, bombed the camps and used napalm.

In those days artillery gun fire was brought down on the Mozambique border town of Espungabera in Manhica Province. Rhodesian aircraft destroyed bridges, dwelling houses, a number of enterprises and communication centres in that province and another two border provinces. From March 1976 to February 1977 alone, a material damage inflicted upon the country amounted to 13 million dollars.

The killing of thousands of civilians and refugees and the undermining of the Mozambique economy--all those barbarous actions are being staged by the illegal Rhodesian regime with a view to making the republic abandon its principled foreign-policy course. The Mozambique people, however, are steadily resolved to uphold their independence and to strengthen the country's defence potential.

President Samora Machel, who is by constitution the commander in chief of the republic's armed forces, repeatedly emphasized that a modern army with defence capability is essential to uphold the country's sovereignty and revolutionary gains. The latest important step taken in this direction was the introduction of universal military service about a week ago.

Nyazonia locality became a symbol of people' grief in Mozambique. More than a thousand civilians who died in August 1976 at the hands of punitive troops are buried in a common grave there. But at the same time it is the symbol of the republic's determination to issue a worthy rebuff to the provocations of the Rhodesian military. Peasants, fighting-men of the people's liberation forces of Mozambique, schoolchildren and students constantly go to Nyazonia to honour the memory of the fallen and to take an oath of fidelity to the cause of defence of their motherland.

FURTHER MATERIAL ON HORN OF AFRICA SITUATION

U.S., Arab League Positions

LD301650Y Moscow TASS in English 1526 GMT 30 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Washington, March 30, TASS--A U.S. State Department spokesman said that "considerable progress" was made during talks held in Mogadiscio recently concerning supply of American arms to Somalia. The talks in Mogadiscio were conducted by Richard Moose, assistant secretary of state for African affairs.

Addis Ababa, March 30, TASS--The ETHIOPIAN NEWS AGENCY said that American arms supplies to Somalia will tend to preserve tension in the Horn of Africa and complicate a settlement of relations between Somalia and the neighbouring countries.

Observers also say that the process of a peaceful settlement of the conflict in the Horn of Africa is also hampered by the position adopted by certain circles in the League of Arab states whose council is now in session in Cairo. Instead of concentrating on the Middle East situation, which was worsened sharply as a result of President as-Sadat's anti-Arab actions, participants in the session, which is boycotted by such progressive states as Algeria, Syria, Iraq, Libya and Democratic Yemen, began a verbose discussion on the Somali-Ethiopian conflict. From the very outset they displayed tendentiousness in assessing the situation and unmistakable sympathy with the defeated Somali aggressors. While calling in words for a settlement of territorial disputes "by peaceful means" the participants in the session expressed themselves in favour of giving all kind of assistance to Somalia. It is indicative that the resolution adopted by the session refers to the Ethiopian Province of Ogaden, which was attacked by Somalia, as "western Somalia".

Somali Subversion; Ethiopian-Kenyan Talks

LD311040Y Moscow TASS in English 1028 GMT 31 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Addis Ababa, March 31 TASS--Ethiopia's Foreign Ministry resolutely condemned Somalia's continued subversive actions in the southeastern districts of Ethiopia. These actions, the statement says, show that the Somalian leaders have not abandoned their expansionist aspirations.

The Ethiopian Government firmly declared many times that it has no intention of violating Somalia's territorial integrity. Ethiopia shows consistently its striving to live in peace with its neighbours. But the Somalian leadership, which has not given up its expansionist plans, actually seeks to exhaust Ethiopia with subversive actions.

"Despite Ethiopia's resolve to show the maximum constraint when faced with Somalia's new provocations, we shall have to take such lawful measures as the circumstances require," the Foreign Ministry's statement says.

During the talks the Ethiopian foreign minister, Feleke Gedle-Giorgis, held here with Kenya's Foreign Minister Munyua Waiyaki, he set out the conditions of peace and stability in the Horn of Africa. Among them he mentioned Somalia's immediate and unconditional withdrawal of claims to Djibouti, to a part of the territory of Ethiopia and Kenya, readiness to observe the principles of the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity, above all the principle of non-interference in the internal affairs of neighbours and the pledge not to use force in settling international disputes, and finally, undelayed restoration of damages caused to Ethiopia by Somalia's aggression.

The minister criticised the United States' plans of supplying "defensive weapons" to Mogadisico, stating that such deliveries are unjustified since no one of Somalia's neighbours can be accused of aggressive intentions.

Kenya's foreign minister, in his turn, pledged Kenya's resolve to uphold the principle of territorial integrity of African states and stressed that his country will declare against any attempts to change the situation in Africa by the use of force.

Somali Religious Propaganda

LD301400Y Moscow TASS in English 1244 GMT 30 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Addis Ababa, March 30, TASS--The national democratic revolution in Ethiopia did away with discrimination and guaranteed full freedom of religion. Representatives of various religions and religious sects participate most actively in the building of a new society. This was stated by Endale Tessema, member of the Provisional Military Administrative Council (PMAC), head of the PMAC Department for Social Affairs. He spoke here at the current seminar which is being attended by delegates of the Orthodox, Moslem, Catholic and Protestant churches of Ethiopia.

The PMAC representative criticized the Somali leadership and reactionary Arab regimes for their attempts to use religious propaganda for the purposes of undermining African unity.

Postwar Recovery

LD302130Y Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1830 GMT 30 Mar 78 LD

[Text] The Ethiopian revolutionary authorities are taking emergency measures to aid people in the country's eastern and southern areas, which were affected by Somali aggression. Recovery in these areas is taking place simultaneously with the elimination of the last armed bands left after the crushing of the Somali Army. Our correspondent, Vladimir Lobachenko, reports:

Our road through liberated Ogaden areas often took us through continuous minefields. Several times we met Ethiopian engineers busy clearing roads and fields of thousands and thousands of mines left by the Somali invaders. Ethiopian military spokesmen asked us to stay carefully in the middle of the road, as the edges are frequently still mined. Ethiopian engineers work without pause, since the mines are a serious threat to the inhabitants of eastern and southern areas who have begun to return to the native villages they fled to avoid Somali occupation troops.

The village of (Gursum) in the Abmar Mountains has been lucky. Just outside it are tents of a battalion of the people's militia which has been engaged in mine-clearing and fighting small armed gangs. There are no longer any mines on roads leading to the village or in fields around it. Normal life is gradually returning to (Gursum), although the village was almost completely burned down by the Somalis.

While visiting the village outskirts we came across some refugees, one of the last groups of inhabitants of (Gursum) who had returned to their native village after a 6-month occupation by the Somalis.

The war left terrible scars in destroyed (Gursum) and in other previously occupied areas in eastern and southern Ethiopia. The number of Ethiopians who lost their lives runs into tens of thousands; material damage has exceeded 1 million Ethiopian birrs. More than 1 million inhabitants of the area of military operations have been affected in one way or another.

The Ethiopian revolutionary authorities have now begun to work out a general plan of recovery for the war-damaged eastern and southern areas.

RHODESIAN INTRIGUES WILL NOT DECEIVE AFRICAN PEOPLES

LD301019Y Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 28 Mar 78 p 4 LD

[Vitaliy Korionov article: "Do Not Deceive the Peoples!"]

[Text] The Zimbabwe patriotic forces have decisively condemned the agreement on the so-called "internal settlement" of the Rhodesian crisis reached by Smith, the ringleader of the racists, and three African puppets. This deal has been condemned by the peoples of Africa and by many of the continent's states. The agreement signed in Salisbury has been rejected by the UN Security Council as unlawful and unacceptable.

The farce is nevertheless continuing. In Salisbury the swearing-in ceremony of the participants in the aforementioned deal was held, and they were proclaimed as the "transitional government." The Western press is trying to present things as if the deal could become a step toward the solution of the Rhodesian question. The true reason for this fuss is indicated by the Washington POST, which blabbed: "...'internal settlement' is clearly a ruse with the aim of insuring that in the future the real decisions in Rhodesia will continue to be made by whites."

The participants in the Salisbury deal were not slow to state that their "hopes are raised" by the position of the five Western states which abstained during the vote in the Security Council on a resolution condemning the deal in question.

In effect, Western diplomacy is becoming very active. U.S. and British diplomats held talks in the South African capital with representatives of the Rhodesian racists and discussed, according to AFP, the question of how to give the Salisbury deal a "broader character." A group of leading American businessmen hurried off to have a meeting with Smith.

A. Young, U.S. representative at the United Nations, set off for Africa, using his eloquence to "persuade African leaders to forget their differences." British Foreign Secretary D. Owen, the press reports, is trying to foist on the Zimbabwe Patriotic Front the idea of holding a new conference including the participants in the Salisbury deal.

However, these efforts are without success. The Zimbabwe Patriotic Front led by J. Nkomo and R. Mugabe decisively reject the machinations of the racists and neocolonialists. It describes the "internal settlement" agreement as "treacherous."

A conference of leaders of the "frontline" states held in Dar es Salaam declared invariable support for the armed struggle being waged under the leadership of the Patriotic Front to achieve complete independence and create a genuine democratic government, noting at the same time that this does not preclude the method of talks.

The intrigues of the racists and their patrons will not deceive the freedom-loving peoples of Africa. The patriots of Zimbabwe and other countries are continuing the struggle for their just cause.

ZIMBABWE PATRIOTS UNDERTAKE MAJOR OFFENSIVE

LD292028Y Moscow TASS in English 1946 GMT 29 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Maputo, March 29 TASS--TASS correspondent Aleksandr Osipov reports:

Powerful blows on Rhodesian punitive troops has been the reply of the Zimbabwe liberation forces to the political deal struck between Smith and African puppets--Muzorewa, Sithole and Chirau. The patriots undertook a major offensive in the western front, in the area of Umtali, a major administrative centre. Guerrilla combat groups from liberated zones simultaneously made raids on garrisons, military bases and depots of punitive troops.

The Rhodesian command is hurriedly moving major reinforcements to the fighting area. Aviation of the Smith regime incessently bombs positions of units of liberation forces. The main forces of foreign mercenaries and gangs of thugs, "Selous Scouts", are also on their way to Umtali.

The Zimbabwe patriots are engaged in successful combat operations also in other fronts. According to the Patriotic Front's communique, publisher here, in the recent time fighting men of the liberation forces destroyed about 400 officers and men of the Smith army. Three important strongpoints of the punitive troops, "Grand Riff", Nyamakronda and Nyamaropa have been destroyed. 4 "Dakota" planes and 4 military helicopters have been shot down, 8 railway trains with military equipment and ammunition have been derailed.

750,000 peasants have been released in the course of combat operations from the so-called "protected villages" (concentration camps). The population of the liberated zones is now about 2 millions.

ASPECTS OF POLITICAL ASSASSINATION IN NAMIBIA EXAMINED

LD292256Y Moscow in English to South Africa 1830 GMT 29 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Yuriy Mikhaylov comments on the assassination of Chief Clemens Kapuuo:

Chief Kapuuo was closely associated with Pretoria. Little is known so far as to who killed him and why; however, South African propaganda has launched a campaign to put the blame for his assassination on SWAPO. But there is more to it than that. Attempts are being to link Kapuuo's assassination with the intensified tribal hostility in Namibia. The press is making unambiguous hints that the assassination was masterminded not merely by SWAPO but also by its members belonging to the Ovambo tribe.

It must be pointed out that there is a well-wornout method: The men in Pretoria have long since been leaning over backwards to substantiate the need as to keep and reinforce the South African troops in Namibia for the alleged purpose of insuring internal security. In other words, the idea is to create the necessary conditions to hand over power to the racist stooges and prevent Namibia from achieving genuine independence. It was to this end that South Africa tried to use two other political assassinations: of the Ovamboland minister of health, Toivo Shiyagaya, and Philip [as heard] Elifas, the chief minister of the Bantustan. Accusations were also made against SWAPO at that time and though even the authorities had to describe them as unfounded this didn't prevent the racists from showering reprisals against the patriotic organization.

The same thing is happening again these days. The assassination came at a time when important international decisions were about to be taken on Namibia. However, these tactics are doomed to failure. SWAPO, the legitimate representative of the Namibian people and their tested vanguard, is stepping up its struggle and, as Sam Nujoma emphasized the other day, the aim of this struggle is to free the country and to set up a genuine people's government.

SWAPO'S NUJOMA ON GENERAL ELECTIONS, INDEPENDENCE

LD301542Y Moscow TASS in English 1523 GMT 30 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Berlin, March 30, TASS--S. Nujoma, the president of the South-West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO), highly assessed the solidarity of the countries of the socialist community and all the anti-imperialist forces with the liberation struggle of the Namibian patriots. In an interview with the GDR television he mentioned the successes of the freedom fighters who have a number of districts in the north and the east of the country under their control. At the same time SWAPO is prepared to take part in general elections in Namibia before it is proclaimed independent. The elections are to be held under U.N. control. S. Nujoma expressed confidence that SWAPO will win the elections.

WEST SUPPORTS UNITA, FNLA ATTACKS AGAINST ANGOLA

LD302042Y Moscow in English to Africa 1500 GMT 30 Mar 78 LD

[Aleksey Dolgov commentary]

[Text] In the past 5 months, Angola has been the target of over 40 armed provocations from the territory of Zaire and Namibia, which is occupied by the South African regime. This has been announced in Luanda by the republic's Defense Ministry. The ministry also reports concentration of troops near the Angolan border. The republic's enemies assign a particular role in their plans to the puppet groups, the FNLA and UNITA. Western mercenaries, Chinese and Chilean instructors and CIA agents are helping to train cutthroats out of members of these two organizations. Our observer, Aleksey Dolgov, writes the following in comment:

The well-informed Paris magazine AFRIQUE-ASIE connects the arrival of mercenaries in Zaire with NATO's strategic plans (?concerning) Angola. According to the magazine, the bulk of financing is borne by West Germany, but contributions also come from Belgium, France, the United States and Britain. Angola has more than once offered to normalize relations with Zaire but the Western powers still have their sights on turning Zaire into a base for attacks on Angola. In the south, the imperialists bank on UNITA groups of subversive agents and terrorists which are patronized by the South African racists. Peking and the fascist junta in Chile have also stepped up military support of these splinter organizations. The London weekly OBSERVER says $10 million fund has been set up to support UNITA. The main contributors to the fund are France, Iran and Saudi Arabia.

So a broad front is being formed against Angola only 2 years after the failure of the joint intervention by the separatists, South African racists and Western mercenaries. This time its covert and overt participants include certain reactionary regimes in the Middle East. What links up these regimes with the imperialist powers is made clear by the events in the Horn of Africa and around Angola--it is hatred and fear of the revolutionary, progressive tendencies in Africa.

The attempts to destabilize the situation in Angola and the aggressive plans and actions against it can lead to the emergence of a dangerous hotbed of tension. What is more, they affect the vital interests of the national liberation movement in the south of the continent. There is no doubt that Angola will be able to rebuff the schemes of its enemies. One guarantee of this is the socialist countries' firm support. But independent Africa cannot remain indifferent to what is happening near Angola's borders. It's a challenge, just as it was in 1975 and 1976.

ANGOLAN PARTY OFFICIAL DENOUNCES UNITA RAID

LD310338Y Moscow TASS in English 0147 GMT 31 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Luanda, March 30, TASS--The enemies of the People's Angola continue their armed provocations and bandit raids against the republic, which is now implementing the national reconstruction plans drawn up by the historic 1st Congress of the MPLA-Workers' Party. This was announced by the member of the Politbureau of the Central Committee of the MPLA-Workers' Party, Lucio Lara, at a meeting of workers in the town of Ebanga (Benguela Province) which some days ago was attacked by armed bandits from the secessionist UNITA grouping. During the raid, the UNITA bandits were destroying agricultural plantations, burning houses and killing the population.

Aided by the South African racists, the Zaire military and anti-popular puppet groupings, stressed Lucio Lara, international imperialism is trying to create in the country disorder and chaos and thus divert the Angolan people from building socialist society. Yet the enemies' attempts are futile. Nobody will succeed in undermining the determination of the working people to work steadily for the planned goal.

Lucio Lara called on the citizens of the province to do everything possible to increase the defence capabilities of the country, to form people's defence detachments and eradicate armed bands hindering national reconstruction. He stressed the necessity of increasing the role of the working class in building new society in Angola and called for its closer union with the peasants and all the revolutionary forces of the country.

ANGOLA'S DOS SANTOS EXPRESSES GRATITUDE TO USSR

LD301847Y Moscow TASS in English 1705 GMT 30 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Luanda, March 30, TASS--The Soviet Union has been and remains a true and devoted friend of Angola. This was stated by Jose Eduardo dos Santos, member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the MPLA-Workers' Party, first deputy prime minister of the PRA, in a speech at a ceremony at Luanda seaport to mark the handing over of three dry cargo ships to Angola by the Soviet Union.

Jose Eduardo dos Santos expressed deep gratitude to the CPSU, the Government of the USSR and the Soviet people for their fraternal help and assistance in the building of a new Angola and in the creation of its merchant marine. At the same time, he assured the Soviet people that Angola is their faithful friend and ally in the struggle for peace, democracy and socialism, against imperialism, neocolonialism and racism. By a decision of the Angolan Government, he said, the three new dry cargo ships of the country's merchant marine have been named after Karl Marx, Friedrich Engels and Vladimir Lenin.

SOUTH ASIA

DEFENSE MINISTER KUTAKHOV LEAVES FOR VISIT TO INDIA

LD301009Y Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 28 Mar 78 p 3 LD

[Text] Chief Marshal of Aviation P.S. Kutakhov, USSR deputy defense minister and commander in chief of the air force, left Moscow on 27 March for Delhi on an official visit at the invitation of Air Chief Marshal H. Moolgavkar, chief of the Air Staff of the Republic of India.

Chief Marshal of Aviation P.S. Kutakhov was seen off at the airport by Army Gen A.T. Altunin, USSR deputy defense minister, and other Soviet generals and officers.

Among the sendoff party were diplomats of the Indian Embassy in the USSR.

CPI URGES JANATA PARTY TO REFORM ECONOMY, SOCIETY

LD301439Y Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 26 Mar 78 p 4 LD

[Correspondent V. Shurygin dispatch: "Loyalty to the Interests of the Working People"]

[Excerpts] Delhi, 26 March--Throughout the development of the political situation in India, the communists have waged a selfless struggle in defending the interests of the working people, and supporting the country's development along the path of peace, democracy and social progress. Pursuing tactics of union and struggle in relation to the former ruling party, the Communist Party stated immediately after the state of emergency was introduced that it should not be used to attack the interests of the working masses. It sharply criticized the former ruling party--the Indian National Congress [INC]--for its concessions to big business. In parliament and in the party press, the communists demanded an end to the arbitrary and illegal policy of population control, the misuse of power, government corruption and so forth.

The Communist Party of India [CPI] then supported the 20-point government program announced after the state of emergency, which was directed toward improving the life of the poorest strata of the population in rural localities.

The parliamentary elections last March were an important event in India's political development. As is known, they produced a victory for the Janata Party, thus ending 30 years of INC rule. The verdict pronounced by the voters in these elections was proclaimed in a CPI National Council resolution--it protested the misuse of power and the violations of democratic norms which occurred when the state of emergency was in force.

The CPI believes, however, that the defeat of the INC did not signify a reversal of the people and government's desire to achieve economic self-sufficiency, strengthen the state sector, achieve an anti-imperialist course of nonalignment, adopt a peace policy, and promote friendship and cooperation with the socialist states. But, the communists point out, the results of the parliamentary elections reflected the broad popular masses' displeasure with the slow resolution of the main socioeconomic problems--such as poverty, unemployment and the growth of property inequality. Despite the indisputable successes achieved by India in various social fields during its independence, these problems remain acute.

Much remains to be done in India to solve the question of a more just redistribution of land, improve the life of rural workers and various tribes, improve the education system in an effort to eradicate illiteracy, caste and religious prejudices and improve the position of women.

In opposing the INC, the working masses quite naturally linked their hopes for a speedy resolution of urgent socioeconomic problems and the satisfaction of their daily needs with a change of power. However, the bourgeoisie also hoped to strengthen their positions with the election of the Janata Party. Therefore the situation in India is now characterized by the galvanized action of the working class, peasantry and other strata of the Indian working people on the one hand and by the attempts of the urban bourgeoisie to secure advantageous concessions from the government on the other.

The CPI welcomed the Janata governments measures to restore democratic political and social norms previously restricted by the state of emergency law--the removal of the ban on strikes, the abolition of press censorship, and so forth. It supported the government's efforts to develop relations of friendship and all-round mutually advantageous cooperation with the USSR and other socialist countries.

At the same time, the CPI appeals to the government to adopt stringent measures against the rural bourgeoisie who are attacking the poor, trying to deprive them of what they have obtained as a result of progressive measures. The Communist Party demands that the Janata Party fulfill its election promises to improve the position of workers and accelerate agrarian reform in the interests of the landless peasants and the rural workers. The communists oppose further concessions to the private sector and the introduction of foreign private capital, primarily of transnational monopolies, into the Indian economy.

The Communist Party is currently operating in complex conditions. Its political opponents are trying to belittle the role and significance of the Indian communists' selfless struggle for the interests of the working people, democracy and social progress. These circumstances, together with the complex tasks facing the CPI, dictate the urgent need to strengthen ideological, political and organizational unity.

At the precongress conference of state party organizations, the Indian communists analyzed the economic and political situation and the distribution of class forces in the country and outlined the main directions of activity in the immediate future. Party work among the masses is given top priority. Their increased political awareness and activity provide a favorable atmosphere for this. The Indian communists appeal for unified action by leftwing and democratic forces to insure the country's progress along the path of peace, democracy, and social progress.

The CPI, together with other progressive organizations, is performing a great deal of work to mobilize public opinion in the struggle for peace and disarmament, and against the arms race and the perfidious designs of imperialist states which, using neo-colonialist methods, are seeking to draw India into the orbit of their Asian policies. The Indian communists advocate the greatest possible expansion and deepening of cooperation with the Soviet Union and other socialist countries as an important factor furthering the strengthening of its political independence and the achievement of economic self-dependence.

LAO DEPUTY PREMIER'S VISIT TO THAILAND ENDS

LD300803Y Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 26 Mar 78 p 5 LD

[I. Shchedrov report: "Talks Have Taken Place"]

[Text] Bangkok--A delegation led by Phoun Sipaseut, Lao deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, has ended a 3-day official visit to Thailand.

In a joint communique, both sides reaffirmed their adherence to a policy of peace and peaceful coexistence and advocated the peaceful negotiated solution of problems under dispute, including border problems.

"The main result of the agreements reached between our two countries with different social systems," Phoun Sipaseut stated, "is to promote not only the determination of ways of further developing bilateral neighborly relations, but also the strengthening of the cause of peace and security throughout the region by the joint efforts of all countries."

AUSTRALIAN TRADE WITH JAPAN, WORLD GRADUALLY DETERIORATING

OW301900Y Moscow in English to Australia and New Zealand 0800 GMT 30 Mar 78 OW

[Text] Radio Moscow observer Igor Bestuzev will now discuss the results of a visit to Japan by the Australian deputy prime minister, Douglas Anthony. This is what the observer writes: On his return from Japan, Douglas Anthony said at Sydney airport he was displeased with the results of his talks in Tokyo. He had every reason to make such a statement. It is generally known that in Japan, Mr Anthony hoped to get assurances that Japan would not reduce its imports from Australia and that it would not be pressing for lower prices of the raw materials it buys in Australia. However, he failed to get such assurances. Before he left for Japan, Mr Anthony told newsmen that the purpose of his visit was to restore the principles regulating Australian-Japanese trade relations. But even in this field there were no great achievements, according to an ABC [Australian Broadcasting Commission] program for Britain and Western Europe. The Japanese side made practically not a single concession. What are the reasons for such a tough Japanese stand? At the time Mr Anthony was staying in Tokyo, talks were in progress there with representatives of the European Economic Community and Washington. These representatives were pressing that Japan should reduce exports to Western Europe and the United States and substantially increase imports from there. Japan had to make definite concessions.

But such concessions are bound to damage the Australian economy. As Japanese exports are reduced, the volume of production in Japan is decreased inevitably too, and consequently there is a drop in the Japanese demand for raw materials. But since as you know well Australia is the main supplier of raw materials to Japan, such changes in the Japanese economy have a most unfavorable effect on the Australian mining industry. This happened in the past when there was recession in the Japanese economy. The situation is the same now. As economists predict, limitation in Japan on purchases of coal and iron in Australia will result in the annual losses in Australia of at least $170 million in its exports. But if Japan faces difficulties itself why does a reduction in its purchases of Australian raw materials cause such a stormy indignation in Australia? The answer to this question lies--I think--in Douglas Anthony's statement during his stay in Tokyo. He said that Australia's iron ore resources had been worked exclusively for export to Japan, and if Japan cuts back its imports of iron ore this will cause a great damage to the Australian economy. I would like to add to this that supplies of iron ore and coal from Australia contributed to a large extent to the economic successes Japan scored in postwar years. It cannot be ruled out that without these supplies there would have been no prosperous Japan.

Japanese businessmen encouraged in every way the development of the mining industry in Australia since Australia's achievements in this field brought them huge dividends. At the moment they are trying in every way to maintain their profits at the former high level but this time through curbing the Australian mining industry. As we can see Australia's interests are being sacrificed. In a bid to solve its economic problems, Japan does not stop short of creating additional difficulties for the Australian economy. This can only cause displeasure in Australia. Unfortunately it is not only Japan that follows such a tough course toward Australia. You certainly know that in the middle of this month the Australian minister for special trade representations, Mr Vic Garland, returned from a tour of Western Europe. It is clear from the statement he made back in Australia that he had made no headway during his tour. The EEC's common agricultural policy, observed Mr Garland on the eve of his visit to Europe, has eliminated Australian exports of cereals and dairy products to the EEC and the effect on beef had been to intensify restrictions to the point where normal trade had virtually ceased. Australia's exports of beef to the EEC had fallen from more than 98,000 tons in 1973 to fewer than 9,800 tons in 1977. Unfortunately, there is no reason to believe that this tendency in trade with the Common Market harmful for Australia will disappear. On the contrary, everything seems to indicate that the tendency will be further developed. This view, which is shared by many Australians, is supported by the recent decision of the Common Market to establish high duties for the import of Australian steel. The decision was made despite the fact that Australia imported from the Common Market countries last year products of the steel industry worth $13.6 million and exported there similar products worth only $1.3 million.

Australia's exports to the United States are being restricted more and more too. During economic crisis and recessions in the capitalist world the hardest hit--as a rule--are the economically weaker nations. The current crisis is no exception in this respect.

U.S. INFLUENCE ON PHILIPPINES ELECTION CAMPAIGN EXAMINED

LD301557Y Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 28 Mar 78 Morning Edition p 4 LD

[V. Skosyrev article: "The Philippines on the eve of the elections"]

[Excerpt] The election struggle has involved the sensitive problem of Philippine relations with the United States. We recall that the government of F. Marcos took certain steps to weaken the bonds of dependence on its former parent state. The Filipinos expressed their desire to develop cooperation with all states, regardless of their social system. Diplomatic relations were established with the Soviet Union and other socialist countries.

However, powerful levers of pressure on the Philippine republic still remain in Washington's hands. These are, primarily, large contingents of U.S. troops stationed at the Subic Bay and Clark Field bases. Moreover, there exist whole sectors of the Philippines economy oriented toward the American market. It is not surprising that Manila's attempts to secure a reappraisal of the status of American bases and the abolition of the discriminatory conditions of the trade agreement with the United States have not yet succeeded.

Moreover, the "senior partner", in trying to undermine Marcos' policy at the American-Philippine talks, has begun to support the opposition in the present election campaign. In this context, the Philippine press has reported that several opposition leaders who had held important posts in the state, had long been connected with the CIA.

The Provisional National Assembly which the Filipinos are about to elect will have very limited powers. Nevertheless, the elections undoubtedly mark an important stage in the political development of the "land of 7,000 islands."

NOVOYE VREMYA EXPLAINS JAPAN'S CLAIMS ON USSR TERRITORY

LD301321Y Moscow NOVOYE VREMYA in Russian No 13, 24 Mar 78 p 31 LD

[Editorial reply to reader's letter]

[Text] Why does Japan make territorial claims on the USSR? Which are the territories in question?--writes F. Kunitsyn from Serov in Sverdlovskaya Oblast. In 1875, Japan received the Kurile Islands from Russia in exchange for abandoning its claims on Sakhalin. Having perfidiously attacked Russia in 1904, Japan occupied the southern part of Sakhalin and its neighboring islands and annexed them under the Portsmouth Treaty of 5 September 1905 without, however, returning the Kurile Islands. The Crimean agreement of the three great powers in February 1945 on Far Eastern issues mandated the return of the southern part of Sakhalin and its neighboring islands to the Soviet Union, as well as the Kurile Islands. This was later confirmed by the Potsdam declaration of 26 July 1945 and the San Francisco peace treaty of 8 September 1951, under which Japan renounced all rights, legal grounds (pravoosnovaniya) and claims to the Kurile Islands and to that part of Sakhalin and neighboring islands over which Japan acquired sovereignty under the inequitable Portsmouth treaty.

The Soviet Union's position concerning Japan's territorial claims to the southern islands of the Kurile chain belonging to the USSR--Iturup, Kunashir, Habomai and Shikotan--has been established repeatedly. It was confirmed during the Japanese prime minister's visit to the USSR in 1973 and also during the recent talks with Foreign Minister S. Sonoda. He was told that no territorial question exists in relations between the USSR and Japan and that the Soviet Union does not transfer its territory to other countries. Despite this, Japanese officials allege that the territorial question remains for further discussion. Actually, there has not been and could not be such an understanding.

JAPAN YIELDS TO PENTAGON PRESSURE ON U.S. TROOP MOVES

LD301421Y Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 26 Mar 78 p 3 LD

[Text] Tokyo, 25 March TASS--The Japanese military is yielding increasingly to the Pentagon's demands. This is supported by a statement by K. Ito, chief of the Japanese Self Defense Agency Defense Department, who said in parliament that if "extraordinary circumstances on the Korean Peninsula" emerged, U.S. Marine units on Okinawa could be transferred to the combat area without preliminary consultations with the Japanese Government. The local press has assessed this statement as a fundamentally new approach on Tokyo's part toward the status of the U.S. military bases on Japanese territory. Until now, the Japanese-U.S. security treaty has required compulsory preliminary consultations concerning various aspects of the United States' use of its Japanese military bases and the transfer of troops stationed there to take part in combat operations.

The new position of the Self Defence Agency is the Japanese rulers' latest concession to pressure from Washington. This is indicated by the U.S.-South Korean military maneuvers held on South Korean territory recently. U.S. Armed Forces from bases in Japan transferred to South Korea without any consultations with the Japanese side and participated in these maneuvers. The statement by the Self Defense Agency leader, the newspaper AKAHATA stresses, has provided new confirmation of the Japanese Government's agreement to the free transfer of U.S. troops, which merely facilitates the implementation of the United States' aggressive plans in Asia and the Pacific Ocean.

CHILEAN CP CALLS FOR UNITY AGAINST FASCISM

LD261116Y Moscow TASS in English 1032 GMT 26 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Mexico City, March 26, TASS--The Communist Party of Chile working underground made a call for consolidation of unity of all anti-fascist and democratic forces. A statement of the Communist Party that is now being secretly circulated in Santiago and other Chilean cities contains a profound analysis of the situation in the country where the fascist Pinochet regime has been in power for over four years. The statement points to an acute economic crisis experienced by Chile as a result of the junta's anti-popular policy. Industrial and farm production is being sharply curtailed. Broad masses of the working people are living through hardships. Actually no funds are allocated for reeducation and health services. Terror continues reigning in the country. Democratic rights and freedoms have been liquidated. Hundreds of thousands of Chileans were subjected to torture in prisons and concentration camps. Many thousands of patriots were killed. 2.5 thousand were listed by the junta as missing. Fascism is the main obstacle to solving the problems existing in Chile, the statement of the Communist Party stresses. The vast difficulties through which Chile is living now cannot be overcome without overthrowing fascism. The Chilean communists point in this connection to the need of rallying all patriotic and democratic forces of the country, all Chileans declaring for bringing Chile back to democracy. A statement "One Motherland For All" made recently by the Christian Democratic Party banned by the junta is regarded by the Communist Party of Chile as an important step on the road to unity. In the opinion of the Chilean communists, this document determines the important aspects of the implementation of joint actions against the junta. The communists of Chile, the statement said, are ready to conduct talks with all representatives of the anti-fascist movement to strengthen their mutual understanding and work out a joint strategy of actions.

CHILEAN RADICAL PARTY MEMBER INTERVIEWED

LD271128Y Moscow TASS in English 1108 GMT 27 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Havana, March 27, TASS--TASS correspondent Yuriy Sverdlov reports: The fascist junta in Chile, that relies on support by American monopolies, the reactionary part of the army, the bourgeoisie and big landowners, is finding itself in growing isolation, the TASS correspondent was told by Camilo Calvo, member of the leadership of the Radical Party of Chile. Chile's economic position has worsened catastrophically as a result of the dictatorship's anti-popular policy, he said. The population is suffering from hunger, poverty and unemployment. Medical services and education are beyond the means of most Chileans. American monopolies are buying up the enterprises that were nationalised by the Popular Unity Government.

Repressions against patriots are continuing unabating for more than four years now, Camilo Calvo said. But despite the arbitrariness and persecution, resistance to the fascist junta is gaining in scope. Actively participating in this resistance are not only the Popular Unity Parties but also other political forces. The workers' movement is intensifying and ever more frequently resort is made to such a tested method of struggle as strikes. They are being held in support of both economic and political demands, in particular, the demand for the country's return to the democratic road and for the restoration of trade union freedoms. Of exceptional importance is the worldwide campaign of solidarity that involves millions of people in all continents, Camilo Calvo noted. The Chilean patriots are proud that the Soviet Union and other socialist countries are on their side. On behalf of the Popular Unity Parties Camilo Calvo expressed deep gratitude to Soviet people for their solidarity with the Chilean people. Chile's patriots will do their best to put an end to fascism, he said. The ideals of freedom and democracy will triumph in Chile.

FURTHER REPORTAGE ON BREZHNEV'S VISIT TO WESTERN SIBERIA

Addresses Omsk Officials

LD301825Y Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1530 GMT 30 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Leonid Ilich Brezhnev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, had a meeting and conversation in Omsk today with the members of the Omsk Obkom Bureau. The participants included Ustinov, CPSU Central Committee Politburo member, and Zamyatin, departmental head of the CPSU Central Committee.

Manyakin, obkom first secretary, briefed those present on the work of the party, soviet, trade union and Komsomol organizations in implementing the decisions of the 25th CPSU Congress and the December 1977 CPSU Central Committee Plenum. He spoke about concrete problems which are being solved to expand further economic potential as provided for by the 5-year plan, and about the introduction and improvement of production equipment. The party and economic bodies have been exploring reserves to allow an increase in labor productivity and the quality of output. This is being promoted by socialist competition, which has been developed in the oblast.

A check on the pledges adopted by the working collectives shows that there are real possibilities not only to fulfill but even to exceed the tasks of the first 3 years of the 5-year plan. Comrade Manyakin told the meeting how the problems of agriculture are being solved in the oblast, including the increase in the productivity of meat and dairy animal husbandry.

Leonid Ilich Brezhnev showed interest in solving questions of housing construction, production of consumer goods and improvement of trade and consumer services for the population. Comrade Manyakin noted that some 3 million square meters of housing space are to be commissioned during the 5-year period. Over the first 2 years of the 5-year period the working people of the oblast were allotted nearly 1.5 million square meters. Concrete measures are being taken to increase the output of consumer goods, expand trade and improve consumer consumer services to the population as well as the work of transportation.

In his speech, Comrade Brezhnev conveyed cordial greetings to the working people from the members of the party Central Committee Politburo and wished them success in the important work they are doing to achieve the tasks set by the 10th 5-Year Plan. Omskaya Oblast, Leonid Ilich Brezhnev continued, has always been considered the leading oblast of the West Siberian economic region: It has a developed engineering industry, oil-processing and petrochemical industry, and highly productive agriculture.

What I found especially welcome in Comrade Manyakin's report is that the Omsk petrochemical complex, one of the largest in Siberia, is being built at a fast rate. The Omsk plastic materials plant and tire factory are being expanded; the production of spare parts for tractors and agricultural machinery is being increased. You know very well, comrades, how badly our economy needs the petrochemical industry and other industrial products from your oblast.

I hope that in the third year of the 5-year plan you will give us more and higher quality products. This will, of course, require hard work.

As a favorable factor in the work of the leadership of Omskaya Oblast, I note that the oblast has fulfilled and exceeded the state targets for producing and procuring a number of agricultural products. The task now consists of successfully carrying out spring fieldwork and completing the preparation of tractors, soil-cultivating and sowing machines for this work. Everyone of us realizes that to prepare well for sowing means largely to insure high yields.

The oblast is devoting much attention to improving the daily life of the working people. This is an important task. When a person leads a good life then his work follows suit. However, while paying a tribute to your successes, Comrade Brezhnev continued, the party's Central Committee wishes to direct the attention of the party collectives above all to unsolved problems and to eliminating shortcomings. Problems such as these naturally exist in such a complex and dynamically developing economy as the one in our country, and they also exist in your oblast.

We discussed all this in a principled way as befits the party at the CPSU Central Committee December Plenum. I would like to stress here particularly that insuring a high level of organization order and discipline in every sector of economic work are essential for speeding up the development of the economy. After all, the national economy is a single organism. This is why it is so important to fulfill the planned tasks everywhere and to meticulously observe plan discipline and the organization and control over all this.

There is one more point of some importance I would like to make: An important source of the growth of labor productivity and output consists in the rapid commissioning of planned capacities--both of the new enterprises and projects built over the past few years, and those being built during the third year of the 5-year period. After all, according to the 10th 5-Year Plan your oblast is to increase the volume of industrial production by 37 percent. This is to be done mainly by reconstructing workshops and making maximum use of existing capacities.

The entire country has developed truly statewide socialist competition for fulfilling and overfulfilling the 1978 plan and for intensifying the struggle for improved efficiency and quality of production. Socialist competition makes it possible for every collective and every working people to show the ability to solve complex but fully realistic tasks.

In conclusion, Leonid Ilich Brezhnev wished the working peop e of the oblast further successes and expressed his certainty that they will work hard to make 1978 a year of shock work.

Comrade Manyakin cordially thanked Leonid Ilich Brezhnev for the great attention being devoted by the CPSU Central Committee to developing the Siberian economy, improving the wellbeing of the Soviet people, and for the useful advice given in the course of the talk. He wished Leonid Ilich Brezhnev much success in his party and state work.

Addresses Novosibirsk Missile Forces

LD3109 44Y Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0900 GMT 31 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Leonid Ilich Brezhnev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium and chairman of the USSR Defense Council, accompanied by Dmitriy Fedorovich Ustinov, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and USSR defense minister, today visited a missile unit in the vicinity of Novosibirsk.

He was acquainted with military technology, expressed interest in the state of combat and political readiness of Soviet soldiers, and attended exercises.

The commander of the combat unit reported to Comrade Brezhnev on the state of combat readiness. He also talked in detail about the mastering of modern technology and the political education of soldiers and officers in the spirit of watchfulness, internationalism and loyalty to the military traditions of Soviet soldiers.

At the conclusion of the exercises Comrade Brezhnev made a speech.

Addressing the soldiers, sergeants and officers, he said: [announcer read] Just now we were present at exercises of a regiment of strategic rocket forces. You showed a high degree of combat readiness, coordination and the ability to perfectly wield the most modern and powerful weapons entrusted to you. The Soviet Army is equipped with new types of combat equipment and supplied with everything that is essential. It possesses outstanding personnel. All this enables us to have a stable and effective defense of our homeland. You guard the peaceful labors of the Soviet people. The Soviet Union has never armed itself just for the sake of arming. It has never been and will never be a supporter of the arms race. Our successes in the military sphere are directed at defending and securing outselves and our socialist friends from possible aggression, wherever it arises.

Soviet soldiers, educated in a spirit of watchfulness, internationalism and loyalty to the military traditions of the older generations: You are worthily bearing the glory of your fathers, who honorably defended the Soviet homeland during the Great Patriotic War.

To serve and defend one's motherland--this is a great honor for every Soviet citizen and serviceman. The party and people are proud of the Soviet Armed Forces. I am convinced that you will continue to maintain constant combat readiness, which will guarantee an immediate rebuff to any aggressor, and that you will honorable fulfill your sacred duty before the people and our great motherland.

Comrade Brezhnev wished the servicemen successes in their combat and political training.

The servicemen, sergeants and officers of the military detachment assured the party Central Committee and the general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee personally that they will continue perfecting the combat and political training and honorably fulfill their military duty.

On behalf of the Soviet servicemen the commander of the detachment congratulated Comrade Brezhnev on being awarded the highest military decoration--the Order of Victory. Soviet servicemen, he said, are proud of this, for Leonid Ilich Brezhnev's entire life is an example of the selfless service to the motherland, party, people and the USSR Armed Forces.

Discusses Spring Fieldwork Tasks

LD311254Y Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1130 GMT 31 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Thousands of Novosibirsk inhabitants came out into the streets today to give a warm welcome to Comrade Brezhnev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium. Leonid Ilich Brezhnev and Dmitriy Fedorovich Ustinov were presented with flowers and welcomed with bread and salt according to Russian custom.

During the afternoon Comrade Brezhnev spoke to the oblast's party and economic aktiv. He said: [announcer read]

I want to use our talk to express some thoughts regarding spring fieldwork. Timely and high quality completion of sowing in Siberia, as in other regions of the country, is the guarantee of a high harvest in the third year of the 5-year period. It is therefore necessary to set the goals of the oblast's party and economic aktiv without wasting time or losing a single day. Local soviets of people's deputies, agricultural organs, kolkhozes and sovkhozes must organize the scrupulous fulfillment of agricultural work without wasting time or losing a single day.

What should we turn our special attention to at present? To carefully checking the seed stock; to properly preparing the pool of tractors and machines; to providing the farms with fuel and lubricating materials; to bringing agricultural cadres of machine operators up to strength. Party, trade union and Komsomol organizations must help each link [zveno] and brigade realize its potential and internal reserves and on the basis of these to determine socialist pledges in the struggle for the new harvest.

During the period of spring fieldwork, it is necessary to show concern for organizing communal catering, and for the requirements for culture, daily life and medical services.

As is well known, to grow and harvest crops is only half the matter. It is necessary to bring agricultural produce to the consumer without wastage. Measures must now be taken to insure improvements in transporting, processing and storing every kilogram of grain, vegetables and fruit.

Everything I have said here obviously concerns not only Novosibirskaya Oblast. All party organs throughout the country must tackle questions concerning sowing, harvesting and the rational utilization of everything produced by our kolkhozes and sovkhozes in an energetic manner and without delay. I am convinced that the leadership of Novosibirskaya Oblast--as that of your neighbor, Altayskiy Kray--will exert itself to raise the production of agricultural crops and, in the first instance, of grain. You know how we cherish your hard wheat.

Of course, we all know very well that Novosibirsk and its oblast is an industrial link of major importance for the West Siberian Economic Region, which contains enterprises with all-union ratings. The Siberian branch of the USSR Academy of Sciences is beneficially applying scientific results to the industrial and economic development of the entire region, and, I would say, it goes even beyond the confines of Siberia.

Much is being done, and I was told about this today by first secretary of the obkom, our esteemed Fedor Stepanovich Goryachev.

But I would still like to stress in our conversation today that we expect even more in the practical application of science in solving fuel and power problems; in geological prospecting; in petrochemistry; in machine-building, and in other fields. The matter must be pursued further so that the active role of scientists helps us to solve questions of uniting science and practice, thus promoting the growth of the country's production forces. It seems to me that Comrade Marchuk, president of the Siberian branch [of the USSR Academy of Sciences] would agree with this--and, with his customary energy, would consider how to realize this task further, practically and more forcefully.

Comrade Brezhnev conveyed greetings to the oblast's leaders from the members of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and wished them success in fulfilling the tasks facing the oblast.

Comrade Goryachev, first secretary of Novosibirsk Obkom, reported on the situation in industry and agriculture in the oblast, which occupies a leading place in the West Siberian economic area. He noted that Novosibirskites successfully fulfilled the second year of the 5-year plan and the quarterly plan for this year.

He reported on the further improvement of technological processes; the use of the latest equipment and reconstruction of existing enterprises; the development of interindustrial production enterprises, not only within one oblast, but also beyond its boundaries. Comrade Goryachev thanked Leonid Ilich Brezhnev for his valuable advice in the field of agriculture and gave assurance that the oblast's party, administrative and economic organs will insure that the advice is strictly executed. Continuing, the first secretary of the obkom spoke of the geological prospecting work carried out in oil exploration and of the work of the Siberian branch of the USSR Academy of Sciences.

On behalf of all the inhabitants of the oblast, Comrade Goryachev expressed cordial gratitude to the CPSU Central Committee, the Central Committee Politburo and Leonid Ilich Brezhnev personally for their constant concern for the well-being of the Soviet people and their consistent conduct of a Leninist domestic and foreign policy.

SHCHERBITSKIY ATTENDS UKRAINIAN ACADEMY ASSEMBLY

LD302040Y Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1530 GMT 30 Mar 78 LD

[Summary] The Ukrainian Academy of Sciences met today in Kiev. At the microphone is Boris Yevgeniyevich Paton, president of the academy: Last year the academy completed research into 365 topics and is continuing work on more than 1,700 other topics. Last year alone some 600 projects were introduced into the national economy yielding an economic effect of over R230 million. Our scientists have received nearly 1,500 inventors' certificates; 11 pieces of work have received USSR and Ukrainian state prizes. Our institutes are now taking part in carrying out 90 programs and 9 plans for research and design work for solving major problems defined by the USSR State Committee for Science and Technology.

"The proceedings of the general assembly of the academy are being attended by Shcherbitskiy, CPSU Central Committee Politburo member and first secretary of the Ukrainian CP Central Committee, as well as other leading officials of the republic."

GRISHIN ATTENDS MOSCOW GORKOM PLENUM 31 MAR

LD311050Y Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0830 GMT 31 Mar 78 LD

[Text] A plenum of the Moscow Gorkom opened today. It is discussing the ways in which party organizations are implementing the complex approach to problems of communist education of the working people. A report is being made by Makeyev, Moscow City office secretary. He noted that 90 percent of Muscovites are presently studying in the network of political and economic education. A total of 1.2 million workers and office staff are fighting for the title of Shock Worker of Communist Labor.

Comrades Grishin, Tyazhelnikov and Konotop are participating in the work of the plenum.

IZVESTIYA ON SAVING ENERGY IN KEMEROVSKAYA OBLAST

LD311055Y Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 21 Mar 78 Morning Edition p 1 LD

[Editorial: "Saving Fuel and Energy"]

[Text] Our country is rich. In terms of most of the most important indicators we have taken leading positions in the world. And precisely because the scale of production has grown exceptionally, the task of making most effective use of everything at our disposal assumes particular significance.

The CPSU Central Committee examined the question of the organizational and political work of the Kemerovskiy Obkom in saving fuel and energy resources in the oblast's enterprises and on construction sites. The resolution adopted notes that the Kemerovskaya Oblast party organization and labor collectives, guided by the decisions of the 25th CPSU Congress and the speeches of Comrade L.I. Brezhnev, are doing a great deal of work in more rationally and carefully using fuel and energy resources. Practically all the oblast's labor collectives have concrete pledges to reduce expenditure of fuel, electricity, and thermal energy, and more than 500,000 working people accounts of savings. Much is being done in introducing economical equipment and large unit capacity installations in concentrating production and in modernizing energy facilities, which reduces the expenditure of energy resources per unit of output. At power stations and rayon heating plants, equipment is being modernized; programs for transmitting electricity and thermal energy are being improved, and the use of less scarce coal is being extended. As a result proportional expenditure of fuel at Belovskaya and Tom-Usinskaya GRES has been reduced in comparison with planned indicators and is the best in the country for this kind of power station.

The initiative of the metal workers of western Siberia, who are competing for the ahead-of-schedule assimilation of planned capacities and technical and economic indicators, which has been approved by the CPSU Central Committee, has been disseminated widely in the oblast. Since the start of the 10th 5-Year Plan, 40,000 tons of conventional fuel has been saved here by means of the ahead-of-schedule achievement of planned indicators.

The all-union socialist competition for the ahead-of-schedule fulfillment of the plan is giving rise to many examples of a thrifty, truly economical attitude to expenditure of fuel and energy resources. Valuable experience has been accumulated in No 1786 Passenger Motor Transport Column in Khimki near Moscow, where a comprehensive system for saving fuel has been elaborated and is working efficiently. Together with drivers, the engineers, foreman, technologists and workers in repair and servicing shops make a large contribution to this state cause. Exemplary sectors for adjusting fuel equipment have been created there and the reclamation of waste oils, which are reused after regeneration, is widely applied. And this is the result: In the first 2 years of the 10th 5-Year Plan, about 1 million litres of fuel were saved. A large pool of buses operated for 1 month on the saved fuel. The Kavkaz Kolkhoz, Krasnodarskiy Kray, has similar experience. A large-scale repair and technical complex has been created on this farm. As a result, the productivity of tractors has increased, and expenditure of fuel and lubricants has fallen substantially. Considerable successes have been achieved by the Tyumen oil workers, who have done a great deal in the rational use of byproduct gas.

At the same time the CPSU Central Committee resolution on the experience of Kemerovskaya Oblast notes that by no means all opportunities are yet being exploited in work to save fuel and energy resources. There are some enterprises and organizations which permit overexpenditure of energy resources as a result of negligence in storing and transporting fuel and lack of timely preparation of enterprises for work in the fall-winter period, and for other reasons. [paragraph continues]

There are still great losses of heat due to poor quality insulation of heating plants. Sometimes in broad daylight you can see street lamps burning in front of the main entrances to residential blocks, shops and institutions. This may seem trivial, but these "trifles" bring about great losses.

Certain ministries and departments do not probe deeply enough into the activity of subordinate enterprises, organizations and scientific research and planning institutes in elaborating and implementing measures to insure economical use of fuel and energy resources. Necessary attention is not paid everywhere to questions of further improving the system for monitoring and controlling the use of fuel and energy and of elaborating and applying everywhere technically substantiated standards for their expenditure. In particular last year enterprises of the USSR Ministry of Ferrous Metallurgy did not meet the production plan for iron, steel and rolled metal, but showed an overexpenditure of 715,000 tons of conventional fuel and 270 million kilowatt-hours of electricity. A large overexpenditure of heat is being permitted by enterprises of the USSR Ministry of Chemical Industry, Ministry of Meat and Dairy Industry and Ministry of Food Industry.

In the first 2 months of this year the country's economy was developing at a rapid rate. Oil and gas industry workers overfulfilled their plan targets for extracting oil and natural gas. The plan for producing electricity was successfully fulfilled and fuel expenditure per kilowatt-hour of electricity generated was reduced in thermal power stations. Workers in other economic sectors also worked well. But our successes would be even more significant if the policy of thrift was intensified everywhere. Guided by the resolution of the CPSU Central Committee December (1977) Plenum and the provisions and conclusions set out in Comrade L.I. Brezhnev's speech at the plenum, it is necessary to insure a further improvement in forms and methods of organizational and political work so as to intensify the policy of thrift and thrifty and rational expenditure of fuel and energy at all stages of production and consumption.

The CPSU Central Committee resolution on the experience of Kemerovskaya Oblast stresses the need to support and widely promulgate the socialist competition launched in labor collectives to raise production efficiency and work quality in accordance with the letter from the CPSU Central Committee, USSR Council of Ministers, AUCCTU and Komsomol Central Committee. Shortcomings that hold back the dissemination of advanced experience in using internal economic reserves, in improving machinery and technology to increase the volume of coal extracted and improve its quality, and in producing thermal energy and electricity, must be decisively eliminated.

It is the duty of workers, kolkhoz members, specialists, and all working people to insure the unconditional fulfillment of planned targets in saving fuel and energy and decisively eliminate instances of negligence, extravagance and all kinds of excesses in their use.

SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA Editorial

LD310903Y Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 22 Mar 78 p 1 LD

[Editorial: "Saving Fuel"]

[Text] Papers by students at economic seminars on questions of the diligent use of fuel and energy resources has become a tradition at the Belovo GRES collective. Ways to raise the reliability of heat shields, units and control and automatic regulation instruments are being investigated. Methods of servicing power units are being improved to insure that they work in the most economical way. The collective is constantly concerned about producing every kilowatt-hour of power for the least expenditure of fuel.

The Belovo powermen discussed ways of intensifying the policy of thrift at a conference on "Meeting the Demands of the 25th CPSU Congress on Rationally and Economically Utilizing Fuel and Energy Resources." Its recommendations emphasize the significance of effective socialist competition for thrift and carefulness.

A planned and painstaking search for additional reserves in saving fuel and energy resources is being conducted at many other enterprises in Kemerovskaya Oblast. In a recent resolution, the CPSU Central Committee approved the obkom's organizational and political work in developing the creative initiative and activity of production collectives in resolving this major national economic task. More than half a million working people in the Kuzbass have individual thrift accounts. Virtually all labor collectives have adopted and are successfully meeting high socialist pledges for reducing expenditure of fuel and electrical and thermal energy.

Working people in many other oblasts, territories and autonomous republics in the RSFSR are also performing this work on a large scale, on an everyday basis and in a purposeful way. The collective at Moscow's Melz association works 1 hour per week on saved materials and electricity. Workers at the Moscow Regional Administration of Power System Management annually save tens of thousands of tons of conventional fuel, tens of millions of kilowatt-hours of electricity and tens of thousands of gigacalories of heat. Leningrad working people are working 2 days this year on saved resources.

Thrift is rightly called a communist trait. It graphically demonstrates the high level of awareness of the Soviet people and their fervent desire to strengthen the might and multiply the wealth of our socialist homeland Many thousands of collectives and millions of working people, preparing for the all-union communist subbotnik devoted to the 108th anniversary of the birth of V.I. Lenin, are pledging themselves to work that day on saved resources. The provision inscribed in the country's fundamental law on the duty of citizens of the USSR to cherish and strengthen socialist property met with nationwide approval. A similar article is also included in the RSFSR Draft Constitution. Like all Soviet people, the republic's working people are persistently putting this constitutional demand into practice through their daily creative work.

The socialist pledges of RSFSR working people for 1978 provide for an intensification of the policy of thrift. It is planned in particular to save 9.6 billion kilowatt-hours of electricity, 25.4 million gigacalories of thermal energy, 8.3 million tons of boiler-house and furnace fuel, 527,000 tons of gasoline and 864,000 tons of diesel fuel. These are high targets. In order to achieve them it is necessary everywhere to follow the experience of leading collectives, resolutely eliminate shortcomings in the use of fuel and energy resources and close off all channels through which they are lost.

The CPSU Central Committee, USSR Council of Ministers, AUCCTU and Komsomol Central Committee letter on the further development of socialist competition noted that as much fuel resources as would suffice to satisfy the annual requirement of several large cities is still being lost throughout the entire country. Nor have such shortcomings yet been eradicated in the RSFSR economy. About 6 percent of the republic's enterprises and organizations are permitting overexpenditure of fuel and energy. Many enterprises of the RSFSR Ministry of Construction Materials Industry, the Ministry of Meat and Dairy Industry and some other ministries and departments are failing to meet thrift targets. Current norms for the utilization of fuel and energy resources themselves frequently fail to take into account leading experience and the potential of progressive technology.

Party, soviet, trade union and Komsomol organizations still do notdisplay everywhere the necessary persistence and purposefulness in the struggle to intensify the policy of thrift. Collectives of enterprises, organizations and construction sites in Bryanskaya and Vologodskaya oblasts and Altayskiy Kray last year failed to meet their socialist pledges on saving fuel. A number of enterprises in Khabarovskiy Kray failed to meet pledges for saving electricity. It is necessary to draw lessons from the mistakes which have been permitted and to take firm control over fulfilling plans and pledges for saving fuel and energy resources by every labor collective.

The CPSU Central Committee resolution on the Kemerovskiy Obkom's organizational and political work in saving fuel and energy resources at enterprises and construction sites stresses that the state of work in increasing fuel and energy resources and their rational expenditure must be critically analyzed in all sectors of the national economy, at all associations, enterprises, construction sites, transportation organizations, kolkhozes and sovkhozes, and within the municipal services. The task is to strengthen planning and executive discipline everywhere and make the creative search for new resources in saving fuel and energy a daily concern. This is to be done by making extensive use of the experience of working people in Kemerovskaya Oblast and leading collectives in other oblasts, krays and republics.

Socialist competition has an enormous role in resolving this task. Indicators of thrifty expenditure of fuel and energy resources must invariably be taken into account when summing up the results of labor competition. It is necessary to shower esteem on masters of thrift, carefully study their experience, get it disseminated and insure publicity for and thorough public discussion of every instance of careless and wasteful expenditure of fuel and electricity.

"Accurately counting and efficiently using every ruble, every hour of labor and every ton of output and finally eradicating thriftlessness and carelessness--that is our high party duty," said Comrade L.I. Brezhnev at the 25th CPSU Congress. "For we are practicing thrift for the sake of what is most dear to us--the wealth and might of the motherland and our people's prosperity and well-being."

Implementing the historic decisions of the 25th party congress, the working people of the RSFSR will make a weighty contribution toward intensifying the nationwide struggle to raise the efficiency of production and the quality of work!

BRIEFS

NEW SETTLEMENT--The Amurgrazhdanproekt Institute in Blagoveshchensk is working on a plan to build Talakan, a new settlement for construction workers of the Bureya GRES. The new settlement will consist of five residential microdistricts for a population of 25,000. Work on the plan will be completed by early 1979. [Blagoveshchensk Domestic Service in Russian 1000 GMT 29 Mar 78 OW]

TASS REFUTES AFP REPORT ON FOUNDERING OF SOVIET RESEARCH VESSEL

LD301348Y Moscow TASS in English 1330 GMT 30 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, March 30, TASS--The FRANCE PRESSE news agency circulated a report which says that the Soviet research vessel Akademik Kurchatov "probably foundered" in the area of the Bermuda triangle. The agency referred to the Port Administration of Las Palmas. A TASS correspondent contacted by radio the captain of the ship who reported: After a four-day stay in Philadelphia where water and food stocks were replenished, the ship continues research work in an area near the Bermudas. The voyage is proceeding without any occurrences. Ship maintains a regular contact with coastal services. Weather is ideal for research.

The expedition of the Soviet science ship to the central Atlantic area, which is known for its fickle and mysterious nature, began in January this year. Jointly with the U.S. counterparts, Soviet scientists are carrying out the global ocean experiment which has been named Polymode. The principal aim of the research is to create a scientific foundation for forecasting the variability of oceanological conditions and to further the theory of oceanic currents. The ship Akademik Kurchatov, with a displacement of 6,800 tons, built in 1965, is equipped with everything necessary for a comprehensive research in the atmosphere, aqueous medium and the seabed.

FOUR MORE COSMOS SATELLITES LAUNCHED INTO OUTER SPACE

Cosmos 996

LD300914Y Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0859 GMT 30 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, 28 March--The latest artificial earth satellite Cosmos-996 was launched in the Soviet Union today. It is to continue research into outer space. The initial period of revolution of the satellite is 104.8 minutes; maximum distance from the earth's surface is 1020 and the minimum is 970 kilometers; inclination of orbit is 82.9 degrees. The satellite's apparatus is functioning normally.

Cosmos-997, 998

LD300914Y Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0859 GMT 30 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, 30 March, TASS--The artificial satellites Cosmos-997 and Cosmos 998 were launched in the USSR today. The satellites were placed in orbit by a single carrier-rocket. On board the satellites are scientific equipment; radio systems for accurate measurement of the elements of the orbit; radio-telemetric systems for transmitting information on the instruments and scientific equipment to earth. The satellites have been placed in an orbit with these parameters: Maximum distance from the surface of the earth: 230 km; minimum distance: 200 km; inclination of orbit: 51.6 degrees. The scientific research envisaged by the program has been fulfilled.

Cosmos-999

LD301332Y Moscow TASS in English 1328 GMT 30 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, March 30, TASS--The Soviet Union launched today the Cosmos-999 earth satellite to continue exploration of outer space. The initial period of the sputnik's revolution is 89.9 minutes. The maximum distance from the earth's surface is 376 kilometers, the minimum distance is 180 kilometers, inclination of the orbit is 71.4 degrees. The equipment on board the satellite functions normally.

SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION

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